



THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Enjoy Three Nights with Noe Valley Authors

By Olivia Boler

If you missed out last fall on the various readings and events at Litquake, San Francisco's premier literary festival, do not despair. Our friendly neighborhood association has come up with a literary jolt of its own.

From March 26 to 28, Noe Valley's three independent booksellers, Cover to Cover Booksellers, Phoenix Books & Records, and the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, will host the first Noe Valley Authors Nights, a free series of readings, signings, and even cupcakes.

All of the authors featured hail from Noe Valley or have a Noe Valley connection, and each bookstore will have its own theme. Mysteries will hold sway at—you guessed it—the Mystery Bookstore; children's books at Cover to Cover; and books for adults at Phoenix Books & Records.

The first event will take place on Monday, March 26, at the Mystery Bookstore at 4175 24th Street, and will feature three local mystery writers, including Noe Valley author Cara Black, who has written seven novels featuring Aimée Leduc, a French-American investigator who lives in Paris. Black's latest novel is *Murder on the Ile Saint-Louis*, published this month by Soho. (See story, page 15.)

Reading with her will be another longtime resident, Michael Castleman, who has penned two mysteries that take place in San Francisco: *The Lost Gold of San Francisco* (21st Century, 2003), which will be out in paperback this month, and his latest novel, *Death Caps*, due out in

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Dog Park Attracts Loyal Friends

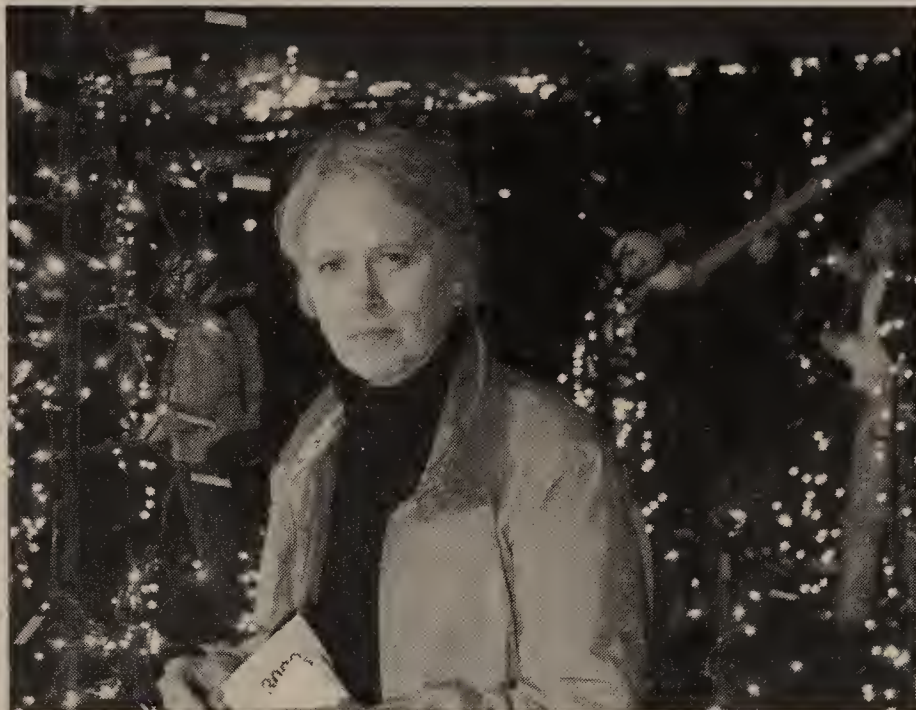
By Lorraine Sanders

At Upper Douglass Dog Park, a designated off-leash area at the corner of Douglass and 27th streets, some pet owners have been taking cues from their canine pals. No, they haven't been eating mud, stealing tennis balls, and scampering up the cliffs behind the three-acre park. Rather, they've been developing an enthusiasm for another doggie trait: the pack mentality.

In recent months, the park's bipedal users have banded together, both to protect the park as a safe place for their pets and to organize efforts for future park improvements.

"While many people in the group have worked for years as individuals or in small groups to ensure a safe, enjoyable, and well-maintained park environment, it is only over the last four or five months that we have begun to coalesce into a

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As night fell on Feb. 14, Noe Valley artist Dianne Platner and others participating in her vigil at Dolores Park reverently covered the pink lights representing more than 3,000 Americans who have lost their lives in the Iraq War.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

Dolores Park Vigil Shines Light on War Casualties

By Patrick Letellier

They stand, these shimmering pillars of pink light, in six tidy rows, tall and straight and unbending, like a group of soldiers at attention. Thirty-two of them are on display here in the grass, at dusk, in Dolores Park, each a thin pole wrapped with a strand of a hundred small lights.

It's Valentine's Day, but this display is not about love or romance; it's about loss and remembrance. The exhibit, "3,000+ Lights," is a vigil created by Noe Valley artist Dianne Platner to honor the Americans who have died in the Iraq War.

As Platner describes it, her work is participatory art. That is, the people who participate in the vigil become part of the art itself. And this vigil is drawing a crowd.

As dusk passes to evening, the sky darkens from a pale blue to a deep cobalt, and the pink lights shine even brighter, drawing people from all over the park. A J-Church streetcar, packed with commuters, unloads its cargo, many of whom make their way to the glowing exhibit. Soon there are runners, families with children, a gay male couple, and dog walkers with beagles and boxers in tow.

"Do you want to name some lights?" Platner asks amicably as people wander in and among the poles. She chats with everyone she can, passing out small white envelopes and offering brief in-

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February Crime Forum Allows Victims to Vent

By Corrie M. Anders

As her husband slept, Saiko Matsumaru slipped out of bed, curious about the source of unease that had awakened her at 1:30 in the morning. It could have been the family cat bouncing around in another room. Or it could have been the flickering glow of her daughter's computer, accidentally left on.

What she found in the dark kitchen stopped her cold. The glimmer came from a small flashlight, held in the hands of a stranger who was burglarizing her Noe Valley home.

The intruder turned towards her, and Matsumaru screamed as they made eye contact. She wasn't sure, she said later, if she screamed in English or in her native Japanese. By the time her husband sprinted into the room, the burglar had fled empty-handed through a back door that had been left unlocked.

Sadly, home invasions like Matsumaru's seem to be more and more common in Noe Valley these days. In November and December of 2006, there were 28 residential burglaries reported to police (see the *Police Beat* column in the February Voice). Strong-arm street robberies, car thefts, and vandalism also appeared to be on the rise.

Worries about escalating crime prompted more than 50 people to attend a community meeting Feb. 8, to discuss their concerns and to search for ways to combat the problem. The two-hour session at St. Philip's Church also heard from a panel that included police brass from Mission and Ingleside stations, a

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Noe Valley's four-footed population is happy to hear that Eden Halbert and other local dog lovers have formed a group that will lobby for new water fountains, landscaping, and other improvements to Upper Douglass Dog Park.

Photo by Pamela Gerard



Taking a Break. Brothers Nico Kert (left) and Nathaniel Solley pause to give their 10-week-old puppy Cinnamon a rest on Vicksburg near 24th Street. *Photo by Pamela Gerard*



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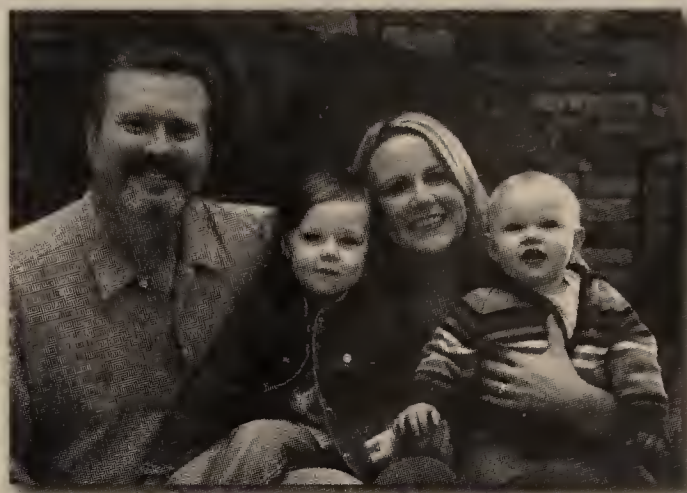


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Help Girls Sail Ships

Editor:

I am a 52-year-old Noe Valley native and mother of Christina Marquez, 18. At age 17, Christina embarked upon a life-changing education. For her last semester at Gateway High School she enrolled in a program called Tall Ship Semester for Girls. Twelve high school girls (from different high schools in the city) trained at the YMCA for four weeks, studied navigation at San Francisco State University, and learned how to sail a 125-foot, gaff-rigged topsail schooner named the Spirit of Massachusetts. They flew to Puerto Rico, where they boarded the ship and sailed across the Caribbean, ending up in South Carolina.

While on the ship, my daughter learned teamwork, responsibility, and leadership, and gained tremendous confidence. She received the 2006 Tall Ship Education Academy Founders Award for the student who best demonstrated the characteristics of the program. When she returned, she convinced me to participate in a three-day women's challenge—three days aboard a 40-foot schooner with 12 strange women who would be crew members and learn how to sail. I was terrified, because I did not know how to swim. Still, I decided to participate based on the strength of my daughter's experience. It was the most thrilling thing I've ever done. Our trip was featured in the *San Francisco Chronicle* on Sept. 14, 2006, and there was also a slideshow documentary on SFgate.com. I am eternally grateful to this program. My daughter Christina is an avid sailor now, attending U.C. Davis. I am looking forward to her being the first woman (or man) in her family to attend and graduate from college.

Currently, I am holding a fundraiser to raise money for girls who would like to participate in the Tall Ship program who might not otherwise be able to afford it.

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It will be held at the Bay View Boat Club, located at 489 Terry Francois Blvd. (in China Basin), from 5 to 8 p.m. The event will take place on Saturday, March 31, 2007. Tickets are \$30, which will include dinner, raffle prizes, and a silent auction. Many Noe Valley businesses have made donations to help raise funds for the Tall Ship Education Academy fundraiser, and I would like to acknowledge them here. They are as follows:

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I hope that there will be more to come. For more information about Tall Ship Education Academy's program for girls, go to www.tallshipacademy.org.

Mary Ferretti-Breidinger
Day Street
MFerrettiSF@rcn.com

Rash of Muggings

Editor:

I live at the corner of 23rd and Dolores streets. Over the past several months, there has been a rash of muggings on our corner. In January, someone was even beaten and stabbed while being mugged. It's happening so often now that my wife and I are almost used to hearing screaming outside our door. It even happened again last night [Feb. 20]. There are some dense bushes in front of one of the houses on the corner, and we believe a group of two or three men are hiding in them and jumping out whenever someone (mostly solitary men) passes by. Armed with knives, they take off their victims' jacket and push them to the ground. Then they often proceed to kick or beat them as they steal whatever they have. And this hasn't been happening in the middle of the night either. All of the muggings took place around 8 p.m.

We feel helpless about this. We have called the police many times without any results. What does it take for them to do something about this? At this point, my wife and I are thinking of leaving the neighborhood. *Please be very aware when walking around this corner at night.*

Brian

St. James' Dream Team

Editor:

I wanted to share a story about the St. James eighth-grade boys basketball team and their awesome journey to this year's CYO championship game. The team consisted of only five players. These five players beat the odds and won both play-off games and made it to the championship game on Friday, Feb. 16. They unfortunately came in second place, but they overcame so many obstacles and played with so much "heart and soul" that I wanted them to know their hard work and determination has left their school, parents, and friends with an enormous amount of pride and respect for each individual player.

The five players began playing together as a team in the fourth grade. There have been other members on the team for the fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-grade years, but when it came to this year, it ended up

being the original five players of the fourth-grade team. The team almost did not exist, due to some doubt that there would be enough boys to make a team and also to the fact that there was no coach to coach them.

The seventh-grade teacher, Mrs. Ibula, stepped up to the plate and volunteered to coach. Although the boys were a bit hesitant to have a female coach, they quickly overcame their stereotype and developed a great deal of respect, trust, and admiration for their coach.

Their loss on Feb. 16 was one of honor. They were holding their ground until the third quarter, when one of the players was injured. He received a deep cut on the upper eyelid and was unable to play the fourth quarter, leaving the remaining four players to try as hard as they could to take first place. Although the player's injury did require five stitches, he refused to leave the game and instead asked his coach to let him play the last minute of the fourth quarter.

The St. James Vikings lost by a few points that evening, but in the eyes of all their fans and families they are true champions!

To the coach, Mrs. Ibula, and to her assistant coach and husband, Mr. Ibula, a big thank you from all of us for believing in our boys and for teaching them to always believe in themselves.

To the team, Anthony, Peter, Luis, Hugo, and Cody, a big thank you for a thrilling and amazing season. *Go Vikings!*

Connie Murphy
St. James School
Fair Oaks Street

Noe Kin May Be Living in Australia

Editor:

Hello from sunny Queensland, Australia. I stumbled across your journal while searching the net for some family history research. I am hoping one of your readers might shed some light on one of our ancestors, Catalina Portener.

She was the sister of Theophilus Portener, daughter of Frederick Portener and Florence Riordan, born in San Francisco on Dec. 23, 1852. Theophilus is my mother's grandfather. My mother is now 91, and we are trying to fill in a few gaps in her ancestral file.

Catalina was married to a Jesus Noe before marrying Augustus D. Splivalo on 25 May 1875. Might this Jesus Noe be a son of the legendary Jose de Jesus Noe, the first Mexican governor? Can anyone tell me if there were any children from this union? Any help would be greatly appreciated.

Carol Campbell
28 Palm Avenue
Shorncliffe Qld 4017
Australia
carol.campbell@hotmail.com

Editor's Reply: A quick search online turned up two pieces of evidence that seem to support your theory. According to a source located at SFgenealogy.com, an 1846 list of the residents of Yerba Buena, Mission Dolores, and the Presidio—the three small villages that later became San Francisco—included "José Jesús Noé, last alcalde under the Mexican regime; Doña Guadalupe, wife of José Jesús Noé, four sons and two daughters (who were all small children), and four servants; and Miguel Noé, son of ex-Alcalde Noé." Also, in the September 2001 issue of the Noe Valley Voice (see www.noevalleyvoice.com), we reported that "an old photograph widely purported to be a portrait of our neighborhood's founder...may in fact be his son, Jose de Jesus Noe Jr. (1843-1872), says local historian Mae Silver."

Good luck in your research.

Birdwatching Gets Interesting

Editor:

Has anyone else seen a peregrine falcon in Glen Park or Noe Valley? I've seen one twice—once on a phone pole across from my house at Farnum and Moffitt in late December, and then again on Jan. 20 in a tree by the playground at Walter Haas Park, at Diamond Street and Diamond Heights Boulevard. It's thrilling to see such a magnificent bird! I understand that a pair has been nesting downtown, and so it's not beyond reason to think one would find us and possibly nest here.

I've also noticed a flock of parrots swooping around Glen Park in the past few months, about 12 to 15 of them, all bright green. Maybe they're an offshoot of the flock on Dolores Street, but in any case, they're quite lively!

I haven't been an avid birdwatcher previously, but it's gotten a lot more worthwhile to do so lately!

Linda Wojciechowski
Glen Park

Don't Stop Sorting Recyclables

Editor:

Part of your sentence on the corner litter receptacles in the February issue was incorrect. Here is what your Rumors columnist wrote:

...[T]hose very popular permeable recycling racks on the top of street garbage cans that were creatively turned into planters by the NVA after they became obsolete (when the city started sorting the recyclables from all the trash at the processing plant) are now being inexplicably removed by the Department of Public Works.

The garbage in the city's litter containers, as well as the black carts at residents' homes and businesses, are collected in the garbage side of the split-body recycling trucks and then dumped at the transfer station located across from the Bayshore Caltrain Station on Tunnel Avenue. From there it is transferred to semi-trucks and taken to the Altamont landfill in the East Bay. None of that material is sorted.

The material in the blue carts is taken to Pier 96 here in the city and sorted for bottles, cans, and paper. These materials are then baled and shipped to the appropriate recycling facility. The material in the green cart is also brought to the Tunnel Avenue site, and from there it goes to one of several composting facilities, as well as to East Bay MUD for digestion and electrical generation.

We cannot at this time sort the contents of the city's litter cans because of the amount and types of contamination that might create. The cans at any time can contain everything from liquids like coffee and soda, to animal feces deposited by people walking their dogs.

By having information such as that in your article out there, we are worried that people may stop using the three bins at their home or work, thinking that everything gets sorted now!

Paul Giusti
Business Manager
Sunset Scavenger Company
415-330-2961
pgiusti@sunsetscavenger.com

The Voice is sorry we created the wrong impression. Thanks for setting us straight.

LETTERS to the EDITOR

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The *Voice* welcomes your letters, photos, and stories, particularly on topics relating to Noe Valley. All items should include your name, address, and phone number, and may be edited for brevity or clarity. (Unsigned letters will not be considered for publication.) Unsolicited contributions will be returned only if accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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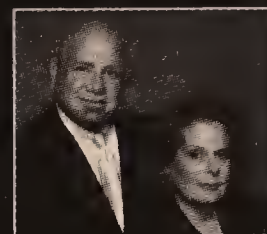
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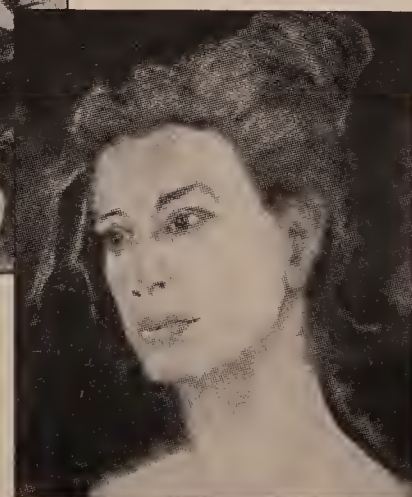
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An exhibit in Dolores Park on Valentine's Day drew many passersby who wanted to help artist Dianne Platner honor the men and women who've died in Iraq.

Photo by Beverly Thorp

'3,000+ Lights'—A Commemoration of U.S. Deaths in Iraq

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

structions. "The envelopes contain small squares of fabric," she explains. "Each square has the name of an American soldier who died in Iraq. You pinch the fabric together to open it up, then slip it over a light. We're putting a name over each

light until all the lights are covered and it's totally dark."

Soon dozens of people are busy, some talking and laughing, others quiet and sober, each slipping black fabric names over lights. More than 3,100 American soldiers have died in Iraq, a grim tally that climbs each day.

"I'm looking at the names as I put them on," says Catherine Lengronne, of Berkeley, who came to Dolores Park to see the vigil. "I cannot say I enjoy doing it, but it feels like I'm with each person. It brings them back into the moment."

She holds out a square in her palm. It reads:

*Andrew R. Houghton, 25
Army Captain
Aug. 9, 2004*

Michael Bass, 62, stands back from the exhibit and watches. He has already covered 15 lights. "I said a prayer as I put the names on," he said. "It brings tears to my eyes. It's not just a covered light that went dark. It's a life that went out."

Is Bass against the war? "I'm definitely opposed to it now. I was hoodwinked. But

I've learned in my old age to be totally against war now."

Gradually, the exhibit darkens, transforming each pillar into a leafless tree limb, wiry and black and bare.

"There are three thousand names now, and it just keeps going," Platner says. "I want it to stop, but I'll be here again if there are four thousand. I just hope it ends before that."

For more information on the exhibit 3,000+ Lights, go to <http://3000lights.blogspot.com> or e-mail dplatner@gmail.com. ■

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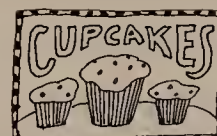
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{Trust Building Tip #64}
Stop "borrowing" money
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Residents Learn They Have to Be Crime-Stoppers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

representative from the District Attorney's office, and District 8 Supervisor Bevan Dufty. Two residents groups, Friends of Noe Valley and Upper Noe Neighbors, co-sponsored the forum.

Crime Rates, Foot Patrols Hard to Pin Down

Friends of Noe Valley president Richard May said the lack of police foot patrols in the neighborhood was one reason crime was up. "We lost our beat police officers, and we saw an increase in crime," he said.

"There was clearly a spike in burglaries," agreed John Goldberg, captain of Mission Station, which covers the part of Noe Valley stretching from 21st Street to Cesar Chavez Street. Goldberg said the department responded last fall and in January, deploying undercover officers in late-night operations and subsequently making several arrests.

As for the foot patrols, the last police officer to walk a beat in Noe Valley, Andrew MacIlrath, was pulled for other duties about six months ago, Goldberg said. The beat officer's return is problematic, according to the captain, who noted that recent Board of Supervisors legislation requires mandatory beats throughout the city and "24th Street is not one of them."

Goldberg could not immediately quantify how much crime had risen overall in Noe Valley.

No number crunching was needed, however. Those who attended the meeting gave firsthand accounts of their brushes with thieves and thugs. Many speakers thanked the Police Department for its officers' quick response to incidents. At the same time, they complained that the city wasn't doing nearly enough to curb crime.

City officials pointed out that retirements and delays in hiring new officers had left the department with a current shortage of 250 police officers, which has hampered crime-fighting efforts. That means residents and businesses must take a more proactive role to enhance their own security.

Burglars Seek Open Doors

Police Inspector Joe Nannery of the SFPD's Burglary Detail told the St. Philip's crowd that one of the most effective deterrents against residential break-ins was also one of the easiest: always keep your doors and windows locked. Nannery cited the example of a recently-arrested career criminal who was suspected of committing 30 home burglaries. The thief had simply entered through unlocked doors, Nannery said.

Matsumaru, for one, admitted her family had been a bit cavalier about locking the 23rd Street home she shares with her

husband and 12-year-old daughter. The family felt secure because their middle-of-the-block home is hemmed in by other residences, has a six-foot-high fence, and is "surrounded by dogs."

"We've lived here for six years and we always felt safe," said Matsumaru, who later expanded on her public comments in a *Voice* interview. "Sometimes we'd leave the door open and leave the screen open on one of the few nights when it's nice. So we've not been paying attention carefully to lock the door especially in the back every night."

At the St. Philip's meeting, a police investigator told Matsumaru that a description she had provided to a sketch artist led to the arrest of a suspect. "Oh good," said Matsumaru, who now makes sure her home is secure before retiring for the night.

Merchants Feel Strapped

Susan Walia was another crime victim. Her Castro Computer Services store, at Castro and 25th streets, has suffered two late-night burglaries in six months. The first break-in occurred in August, and then, on Jan. 10, a crowbar-wielding burglar hit her store and five others on the same night.

"To me, crime in Noe Valley has been epidemic, and it has gone unnoticed until last month, when there were undercover people here and they caught some people," she said.

Walia's shop now has expensive internal and external gates on the front and back doors and security bars strapped across all the windows. Walia said the metal protection does not lend itself to an inviting atmosphere.

"Just imagine being in jail," she lamented. "That's how it looks from the inside."

Walia said she was exasperated that the city wasn't providing more protection, adding that small-margin businesses like hers had to take on the added expense of security measures.

"It's very expensive. I already pay [city] taxes" and assessments made by Noe Valley's Community Benefit District, she said. "What more do I have to do as a citizen and taxpayer to get some help here?"

Brazen Daylight Robbery

T.J. Lee, an agent with Zephyr Real Estate, told the St. Philip's forum that he and his partner were the victims last July of a brazen daylight robbery in downtown Noe Valley. Lee said two men, one a juvenile, accosted the couple as they walked on 24th Street near Castro Street.

"One stuck the gun in my partner's heart, right in his chest, and pulled him into a doorway" and demanded money, said Lee. "I just went to the edge of the sidewalk and started making as much noise as I could."

The thugs took off without getting anything. Nate Martin, an Apple Computer engineer who had been on 24th Street with his fiancée, chased but couldn't catch the robbers. Martin said he was surprised no one else tried to help.

"There were people all over the street, Martin said. The robbers "were running past restaurants full of people. They were running towards one woman who got a good look at them. She stayed around to make sure everyone was okay, but left before the cops got there. As far as I know, I'm the only one who called in. We were somewhat appalled not to see anyone else reacting."

Pleas for More Police

Speakers also complained about shoplifting, graffiti, and rowdy students along the J-Church and other Muni bus lines. Neighbors said the Upper Noe Recreation Center and the historic Noe Valley-Sally Brunn Library, now under renovation, had been tagged several times.

In response to pleas for more beat officers, Dufty and others noted that it had been difficult to get new recruits through the Police Academy in order to bring the department up to full strength.

Many would-be recruits fail to make it through the Academy screening process, explained Lt. Donna Meixner of the Ingleside Police District. They are rejected for reasons ranging from juvenile drug usage, to prior criminal records, to moral turpitude.

"It's a slow process," Meixner said. "We want to take the best. We don't want problems."

City Says It's Up to You

Residents were given a number of ideas to help deter criminal activity, including the creation of neighborhood watch programs.

"If you're going to stop crime in your neighborhood, it's not going to be the police. They can't be everywhere. It's going to be you," said Pam Matsuda, program director for Safety Awareness for Everyone (SAFE).

Assistant District Attorney Rebecca Prozan urged reluctant victims and witnesses to overcome their fears and report crimes. "What makes my job difficult is when someone doesn't want to come forward," said Prozan.

In addition to more cops, a number of speakers asked about the feasibility of the city installing high-intensity street lighting and surveillance cameras similar to those used to monitor violent neighborhoods. Others, however, said those mea-

sures smacked of Big Brotherism. And with shops increasingly adding security bars and metal grills, some locals worried that small-town Noe Valley might acquire a negative image.

After the meeting concluded, several victims offered mixed feelings about whether they felt safe living in Noe Valley.

"I still feel the anxiety," said Matsumaru. "I have a daughter, so I want to make sure this is a great place to live. But we can't ignore that we live in the city and these kinds of things happen."

But the robbery was too frightening for Lee and his partner, who live near 23rd and Eureka streets. "We're going to move out as soon as our lease is up in June," Lee said.

Six Ways to Lock Out Burglars

The San Francisco Police Department and SAFE, a neighborhood watch organization, say the following tips can help Noe Valley residents prevent burglaries at their homes:

- Keep doors and windows locked when away from the home. Approximately half of all residential burglaries are made through unforced entries.
- Disconnect any exterior electric key switchers or electronic number pads that open your garage door. Instead, use either a remote control opener or a key.
- Install a 180-degree wide-angle door viewer on your front door and look before opening it.
- Consider having an alarm system as a backup to your physical and personal security measures.
- Try not to keep valuables in a visible location. Mark valuables for identification and recovery.
- Join or establish a SAFE neighborhood watch group on your block. Contact SAFE at 415-553-1984 or www.sfsafe.org.

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{Trust Building Tip #92}

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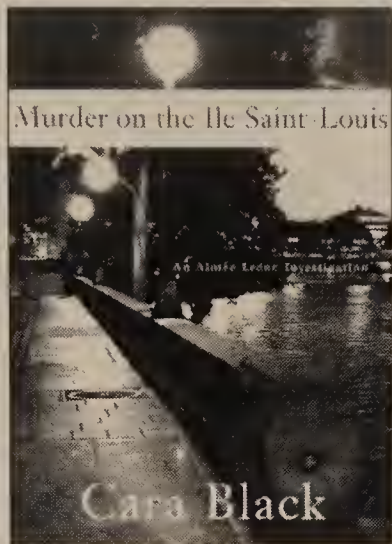
By Erin O'Briant

Local writer Cara Black's seventh Parisian mystery, *Murder on the Ile Saint-Louis*, has hit the shelves, and Black's spring schedule is packed with readings up and down the West Coast. The latest installment in the series, which features detective Aimée Leduc, begins with a mysterious phone call that leads Leduc to discover an abandoned infant in the courtyard of her apartment building.

In this case, says Black, fact sparked fiction. While spending an evening with friends, she heard about a woman in Paris who, nearing 40, was longing for a baby. One evening, she went downstairs to get a taxi, and "when she opened the door, there was a baby wrapped in a blanket on her doorstep," Black says. Ultimately, the woman didn't keep the child, but her experience inspired *Murder on the Ile Saint-Louis*.

Officially published March 1, the newest Black book has already garnered critical praise. It received a starred review in *Publisher's Weekly*, which described the plot as "wonderfully complex" and praises Leduc as an "engaging protagonist, vulnerable beneath her vintage chic clothing and sharp-witted exterior."

Black, a longtime Alvarado Street resident but a frequent flyer to France, will do several readings close to home this month. She will share the spotlight with two other mystery writers on Monday, March 26, at the San Francisco Mystery Bookstore at 4175 24th Street from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Wine and cheese will be served. You can also find her at the Booksmith, 1644 Haight Street, on Tuesday, March 13, at 7 p.m. To learn about other Bay Area appearances in March and April, visit Black's web site at www.carablack.com.



Three Nights of Authors Readings At Noe Bookstores

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

April from Last Gasp. Castleman is also the author of several books on health, healing, and sexuality.

Last but not least is Mark Coggins, a Noe Valley ex-pat who has written three mysteries in his August Riordan, P.I., series, the latest titled *Candy from Strangers* (Bleak House Books, 2006). His first novel, *The Immortal Game*, was nominated for three mystery book awards.

The readings and book signings at the Mystery Bookstore will be from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., and wine and cheese refreshments will be served.

On Tuesday, March 27, Cover to Cover Booksellers at 1307 Castro Street will host three local children's book writers—Lynn Hazen, LeUyen Pham, and Vivian Walsh—from 5 to 8 p.m. Bring the kids for a little pre-dinnertime reading and sweets—cupcakes will be on hand.

Lynn Hazen is the author of the picture book *Buzz Bumble to the Rescue* (Bloomsbury, 2005) and the novel *Mermaid Mary Margaret* (Bloomsbury, 2004), for children in middle grades.

LeUyen Pham, who has worked at Dreamworks Feature Animation (and seen the Pope three times), according to her clever web site, www.leuyenpham.com, is the author and illustrator of the picture book *Big Sister, Little Sister* (Hyperion Books, 2005). She also has illustrated five other books.

Vivian Walsh, co-author of *Olive the Other Reindeer* (Chronicle Books, 1997) among other popular picture books, rounds out the Cover to Cover set. Children as well as adults love her Olive, Space Monkey, and Mr. Lunch characters.

The last night of literary lavishness will take place on Wednesday, March 28, at Phoenix Books at the corner of 24th and Vicksburg streets. The featured writers cater to grown-up readers, and therefore, grown-up refreshments will be on hand: cocktails and...pie.

Readings will kick off with Tamin Ansary, author of the groundbreaking *West of Kabul, East of New York* (Picador, 2003), a memoir that grew out of an e-mail he sent on Sept. 12, 2001, which reached millions of people. Following him will be Josie Iselin, a fine art photographer who will present her book *Beach Stones* (Abrams, 2006). Janis Cooke Newman, author of *Mary* (MacAdam Cage, 2006), a novel about Mary Todd Lincoln, and *The Russian Word for Snow* (St. Martin's Griffin, 2002), a memoir about adoption, will also read and share writing experiences.

This event will run from 7 to 10 p.m. It's also the last day of Phoenix's 22nd anniversary sale and celebration, and everything in the store will be 40 percent off.

Noe Valley Authors Nights is sponsored by Friends of Noe Valley in cooperation with the three bookstores.

Friends president Richard May says the goal of the series is "to highlight the great author/illustrator/photographer talent we have in Noe Valley, and to provide another way for residents to get together for something fun. If residents and the bookstores agree that it's a success, we'll do it every year."



Dogs' Best Friends Take the Lead at Upper Douglass Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

more organized group," says Eden Halbert, a Noe Valley resident who runs the dog-care company SF DogZone with a little help from her "assistant," a stately Siberian husky mix named Luna.

Halbert is no stranger to park improvement projects. As a co-founder of Friends of Noe Courts Park, she has worked with residents to raise almost \$500,000 towards improvements for the playground at the corner of Douglass and 24th streets. She also organized a community cleanup day at Upper Douglass Dog Park in October that drew about 35 people who pitched in to pick up stray poop, fill in holes in the ground, and patch parts of the fence that borders the off-leash area.

As more and more people expressed interest in maintaining and improving the space, Halbert, who sits on the board of Friends of Noe Valley, joined with Carrie Varoquiers, a fellow board member who visits the park daily with her dog Malone, to formally establish a neighborhood group dedicated to the park. In 2007, they have set up a Google group that currently counts about 100 members to discuss park issues and to work towards a prioritized list of ideas for park betterment. The group recently held a community park cleanup day at the end of February, and a Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park web site is also in the works.

While the official Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park group is just getting started, its formation reflects a sense of community that has existed at the park for a long time.

"We originally formed the group because there are all these things that we keep talking about, and we just wanted to see where the consensus was," says Denise Spielman, a loyal park user who visits the park daily with her dog Yasmin.

Many of the regulars were already familiar with each other before the group formed. Indeed, on any given day, park users can be found chatting in small groups, catching up on each other's day-to-day lives, and trading pet stories while their dogs romp on the park's grassy terrain. "For [Yasmin], it's like the ideal place. For me, it's a great social interaction," Spielman says.

The hope is that the new group will not only make communication among fre-

quent park users easier and more efficient, but will also aid active dog walkers and owners when they interact with the city's Recreation and Park Department and launch fundraising efforts for park projects, such as a new dog water fountain, a working irrigation system, and a gated front entrance.

According to Colleen Flynn, stewardship program manager for the Neighborhood Parks Council (SFNPC), forming an organized and solid park group is a key element of park upkeep and improvement in the face of park and recreation budget cuts, which she estimates will reach \$1 million in the city this year. "We firmly believe that building stewardship for the neighborhood helps to maintain the space and keep it active and helps the city maintain the space," Flynn says.

Forming a park group can also have financial benefits. Each year, the SFNPC selects three San Francisco park groups to receive a \$2,500 prize to be used toward future improvements. Winners are selected for exceptional volunteer work in the following categories: Outstanding Environmental Achievement, Outstanding Effort for a Capital Project, and Outstanding Park Group. The deadline for 2007 nominations is March 15.

In the coming months, the Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park will be working to determine which issues are most important to park users. Currently, water fountains, better drainage, and fencing repairs are the most common items mentioned on an ongoing survey posted on the Google group page.

But even with a cohesive group working to create a better park for dogs and humans alike, changes must ultimately be approved by the city.

"Things don't happen overnight. There are processes there for a reason, and it's easy to get frustrated by what we perceive as red tape, but these are public lands, there's a process in place for making sure that the public has input," Halbert said.

To join or learn more about the Friends of Upper Douglass Dog Park, visit <http://groups.google.com/group/UpperDouglass> or e-mail Halbert at eden@sfdogzone.com. Neighbors concerned about excessive noise, barking, or other park issues may also contact Halbert via e-mail.



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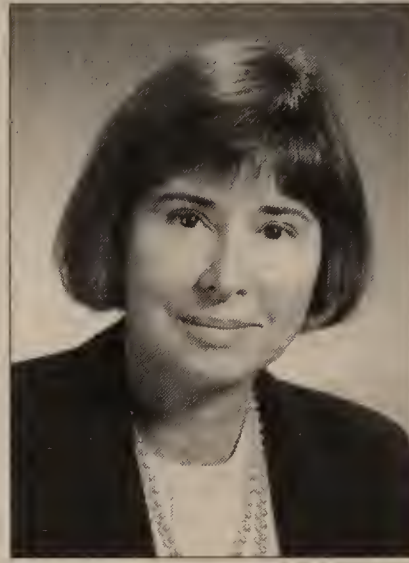
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IN MEMORIAM

Garwood “Gary” Stephen Eberling

June 26, 1938–Nov. 29, 2006

By Anh Lê

On Dec. 3, 2006, my son Minh Jeffrey and I had the honor of attending a memorial service for Garwood “Gary” Stephen Eberling, a retired community organizer who advocated for seniors and worked on numerous community issues in San Francisco. The service was held in the intimate setting of the Noe Valley Ministry chapel, with the Rev. Keenan Kelsey officiating.

I first met Mr. Eberling in 2005 at Senior Action Network (SAN), an advocacy organization for seniors in San Francisco. Mr. Eberling diligently attended the monthly SAN meetings held at St. Mary’s Cathedral. He also periodically stopped by the SAN office, and we would enjoy good conversations.

In 2005, Mr. Eberling joined a group of SAN seniors to meet with a representative of Mayor Gavin Newsom at City Hall. He urged the mayor and the city of San Francisco to renew and fund the C.H.I.P.P.S. program (Community and Home Injury Prevention Program for Seniors), which provides education on how to prevent injuries in the home and in the community, and helps seniors obtain devices that help prevent falls.

Mr. Eberling also was an active member of the Noe Valley community. He participated in Friends of Noe Valley, often addressing sidewalk safety issues by pointing out “big cracks” in city sidewalks. He was a member and deacon of the Noe Valley Ministry Presbyterian Church. In addition, he established and ran a LifeRing support group (an alternative group to A.A.), which met at the Ministry on Sanchez Street.

Rev. Kelsey shared with Mr. Eberling’s family members and friends gathered at the chapel: “Gary’s journey was not always easy, but always grounded in hope and optimism. And true to the Christian call to community and to love one another, Gary’s hope was not passive wishful thinking, but a hands-on, active, ongoing striving and embracing. He cared about people and about community.”

Gary Eberling was born in San Diego, Calif. Rev. Kelsey noted that he gained an early appreciation of extended family. His parents divorced when he was barely 3, and he spent time with his grandmother and a variety of aunts and uncles, and also lived in Illinois for a short time.

Scouting was one of the ways that young Gary kept focused and connected, Rev. Kelsey said. Despite periodic moves, Gary began as a Cub Scout and at 17 achieved the high honor of Eagle Scout. In fact, he proudly attended the Boys Club Jamboree in Laguna Beach in 1993, in order to encourage younger generations to try scouting and Boys Club.

Gary went to Alhambra High School for three years, and graduated from Point Loma High School. At 19, he joined the



Friends and family celebrated Gary Eberling’s long life of compassion and activism at a memorial gathering at the Noe Valley Ministry on Dec. 3.

Photo by Dale Gimlin

National Guard, perhaps, said Rev. Kelsey, to avoid draft deployment to Korea. Already, his heart was centered on non-violence and peace. He trained at Camp Roberts and at Ft. Sill in Oklahoma.

He worked to support himself while attending San Diego State University, selling Carnation Ice Cream and working at the postal service. Upon graduation, he was accepted for graduate studies in social work at Atlanta College, a predominantly black college in Georgia, and set off cross-country in a rickety old Studebaker. “One can only speculate what drew Gary to Atlanta College,” Rev. Kelsey said, “but it certainly honed and shaped his already apparent sensitivity to the well-being of others and his growing passion for justice and equality. Early in his college career, he went up to Philadelphia to participate in the rent strikes there. Predictably he was active in the civil rights movement—and proudly wore his peace medallion for years and years to follow.”

With his graduate studies almost complete, Gary came to the San Francisco area and joined the county social services department. He worked with AIDS families with dependent children, and as luck would have it, met a coworker, Patricia Greenacre, whom he married in 1966.

After a field placement in Cincinnati, Ohio, Gary began working for the Office of Economic Opportunity. While his wife was attending San Francisco State University, both he and his wife became involved with racial protests, strikes, and picket actions on the campus, fully expe-

riencing the unrest of the S.I. Hiyakawa days. They hosted strategy meetings in their apartment, met Angela Davis, and attended some Black Panther meetings where, according to Rev. Kelsey, Gary strived to get the different groups who were in the room to understand each other’s point of view.

His career at the Department of Social Services focused on the goals of the “War on Poverty.” As a community organizer, he went to work in the Bayview–Hunters Point District, a predominantly African-American community.

“Gary Eberling never stopped being

angry at injustice everywhere, whether racial inequities or worker exploitation,” Rev. Kelsey said. “He worked on issues affecting seniors, such as elder abuse. He was always politically involved, from campaigning for Supervisor Tom Ammi-ano, to working with Senior Action Network (SAN), to union work while he was employed.” He also was concerned about environmental issues, and initiated a campaign at the Noe Valley Ministry to make it a more energy-efficient church.

During the 1970s, Mr. Eberling was a member and warden at St. John’s Evangelist Episcopal Church, and later he joined the Noe Valley Ministry. Rev. Kelsey said she remembered his two talks at the Ministry, “one sharing his faith life, another talking about the amazing epiphanies or coincidences that led his life.... I remember Gary’s love of Pat and his sons, his eagerness to work on behalf of the community, his friendship and loyalty, and his faith and action.”

At the memorial service, Mr. Eberling’s sons Brent and Neil spoke not only of their father’s involvement in the community, but also of his strength and guidance in raising his family, and of their parents’ marriage. The family shared many ball games, camping trips to Yosemite and the Gold Country, and weekend jaunts to nature settings and Lake Merritt. His sons remembered that he liked to wear vivid colored T-shirts, most of them emblazoned with a social or political message.

Other family members who attended the memorial were Gary’s brother Lanny Eberling and Lanny’s wife Lura, his cousin Barbara Marlow and her husband Scotty, his nephew Dale Gimlin, his mother-in-law Harriet Greenacre, and nieces and nephews.

My son Minh Jeffrey had the opportunity to meet Mr. Eberling on several occasions, and he fondly remembers his big smile, ruddy complexion, and gentle demeanor.

I will cherish the memory of Mr. Eberling, a soft-speaking, gentle soul, caring and committed, optimistic and hopeful, possessing a contagious sense of humor, and striving and working hard to help his fellow human beings.

Anh Lê serves as the director of Senior University, at Senior Action Network (SAN) in San Francisco.

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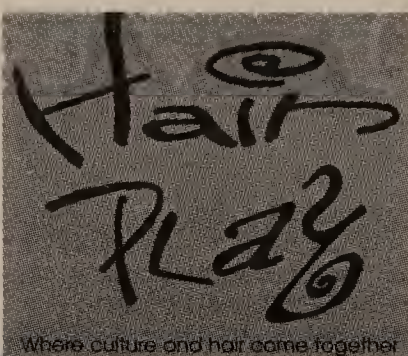
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'Horizontal Activism' Stretches from Noe to New College

By Richard Hildreth

New College of California, the Valencia Street-based emblem of counter-culture education, has been on an acquisition and growth bender of the type usually undertaken by corporations like Google or AT&T. During the past year and a half, the school has taken over the Roxie Cinema, formed a partnership with Modern Times Bookstore, and acquired a Fillmore District hotel which it plans to renovate as a "green" dormitory.

This rapid expansion has nothing to do with the "vertical integration" favored by Wall Street firms intent on consolidating new sources of revenue. Instead, these developments represent an extension of New College's traditional purpose of "creating progressive culture and hope," says Peter Gabel, a member of the school's board of trustees and a New College law professor for more than 30 years.

"[We are] building cultural spaces and experiences that help manifest a world we can believe in," says Gabel.

The school is also practicing what Gabel calls "horizontal activism," a form of direct action he cultivated on his home turf in Noe Valley.

Gabel, who's lived on Elizabeth Street off and on for 18 years, is known in the neighborhood for his leadership during a turbulent year. In 2003, he and a group of residents and merchants launched a campaign to save Cover to Cover Booksellers, rallied community support for the workers when the Real Food Company closed, and founded the Noe Valley Farmers' Market on 24th Street. Instead of accepting the supposed inevitability of market forces to squash an independent bookstore, they banded together to ensure it remained open. Rather than wait for politicians and business leaders to negotiate a solution to the Real Food store closure, they found it more effective to create their own farmers' market.

Gabel says the success of these very local efforts helped to inspire the recent changes at New College of California.

A private university founded in 1971 at 777 Valencia Street, New College has maintained its idealism throughout its history. In addition to bachelor's and master's degrees in law, psychology, and the humanities, the school offers specialties in activism and ecology, and even a "socially conscious" master's degree in business administration.



Peter Gabel says some of the actions taken recently by New College of California—acquiring the Roxie Cinema, partnering with Modern Times bookstore, and renovating a hotel in the Fillmore—were partly inspired by similar grassroots efforts in Noe Valley. Photo by Pamela Gerard

When Gabel learned in mid-2005 that the 93-year-old Roxie Cinema at 3117 16th Street, one of the few remaining independent movie houses in San Francisco, was in danger of closing due to a \$200,000 debt, he saw an opportunity to save the theater by bringing it inside the New College community.

Gabel and other members of New College's leadership group, including Martin Hamilton, the school's current president, developed a plan that would satisfy the Roxie's creditors and plan for the theater's future. An anonymous donor was persuaded to provide the funds to retire the Roxie's debts, in exchange for the theater becoming part of New College.

Under the New College umbrella, the theater continues to show independent features and documentaries, and it is also used for classes in New College's Media Studies Department, such as a course in Latin American cinema. The school also hosts special events at the theater, such as the December talk about politics with consumer advocate and former presidential candidate Ralph Nader.

The collectively-run Modern Times Bookstore, at 888 Valencia Street, has been a popular fixture since it opened in 1971. Gabel calls it "the City Lights of

our neighborhoods," comparing it to the iconic North Beach store founded by poet Lawrence Ferlinghetti. However, by the start of 2006, sales at Modern Times were declining and the bookstore was facing a \$25,000 debt.

Aware of the campaign to save Cover to Cover, Michael Rosenthal, the store's co-owner, asked Gabel for help. Gabel turned to New College, which offered to help with the store's debt load, in exchange for Modern Times' providing textbooks to students. A classroom is being constructed in the back of the store as well. Unlike the Roxie, Modern Times will remain independent of New College, Gabel says.

New College has always had a hard time finding housing for its out-of-state students, says Gabel. In September 2006, the owner of a residential hotel at the corner of Fillmore and Fell streets agreed to donate part of the accrued equity on the building to New College, enabling the school to purchase the site.

Renamed Casa Loma, the building will be renovated with environmentally-friendly materials and become a laboratory for developing sustainable methods of living in an urban environment, not simply a dormitory. The school must raise

another \$5 million, Gabel says, but he is confident the project will be successful, "even if we have to do it on bubblegum and string."

Each of these efforts is intended to integrate New College further into the San Francisco community.

"The cool thing is that they create a web of different ways to affect our culture," says Gabel, through books, film, housing, and technology.

In the view of this diehard activist, the innovations at New College, like the ones in Noe Valley, remind us that we can often find fertile soil in our own back yard.

"It's important to give people hope," says Gabel. "If they would think more about what they can create right where they are, as opposed to feeling hopeless and waiting for help from above, they'd be amazed at what they can accomplish."

For information about programs at New College of California, visit www.newcollege.edu or phone 415-437-0105.



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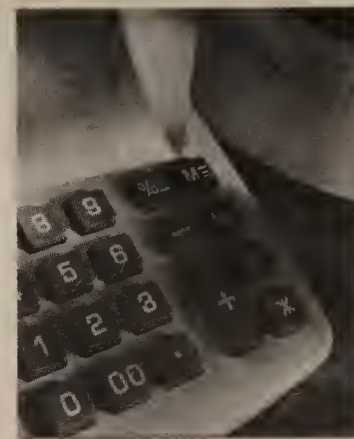
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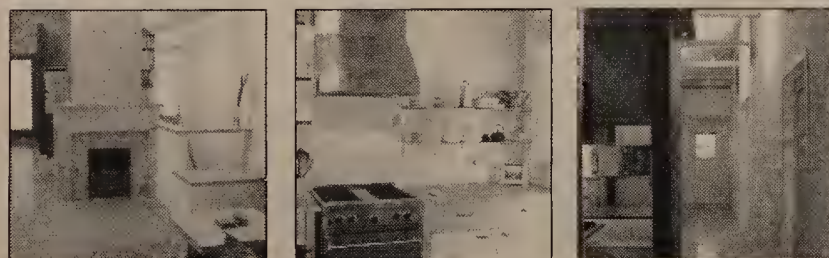
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The Cost of Living in Noe

Escrow-ing Is Slow-Going

By Corrie M. Anders

Noe Valley home buyers took advantage of a softer housing market to stretch out the time they took to close escrow in January.

Single-family homes were on the mar-

ket an average of 99 days—considerably longer than during the hot streak of last summer, when buyers frequently concluded deals in three to four weeks.

Sales data that Zephyr Real Estate provides monthly to the *Voice* showed that four homes exchanged hands in January, the same number as a year earlier, and that buyers continued to balk at paying above the sellers' asking price.

One of the four homes took 132 days—more than four months—before the final paperwork was signed. While that apparently was an anomaly, Zephyr sales manager Randall Kostick says he expects closings in the range of 45 days to become the norm.

"It's a little bit stressful to close a prop-

A Snapshot of Noe Valley Rents**				
Type of Unit	Number in Sample	Range of Rents February 2007	Average February 2007	Average A Year Ago
Studio	2	\$1,150 – \$1,200	\$1,175 / mo.	\$ 998 / mo.
1-bedroom	18	\$1,050 – \$4,300	\$1,852 / mo.	\$1,797 / mo.
2-bedroom	30	\$1,750 – \$3,695	\$2,551 / mo.	\$2,323 / mo.
3-bedroom	9	\$2,200 – \$6,700	\$4,272 / mo.	\$3,016 / mo.
4+-bedroom	3	\$5,250 – \$9,950	\$6,983 / mo.	\$6,034 / mo.

** Survey based on a sample of 60 Noe Valley listings appearing on Craigslist.com from Jan. 29 to Feb. 15, 2007.

NV 3 07

Noe Valley Home Sales*						
Total Sales	No.	Low Price (\$)	High Price (\$)	Average Price (\$)	Avg. Days on Market	Sale Price As % of List Price
Single-family homes						
Jan. 2007	4	\$850,000	\$1,865,000	\$1,247,000	99	96%
Dec. 2006	8	\$1,000,000	\$2,125,000	\$1,477,813	48	99%
Jan. 2006	4	\$850,000	\$1,175,000	\$972,500	65	99%
Condominiums						
Jan. 2007	4	\$552,000	\$815,000	\$684,250	66	100%
Dec. 2006	6	\$397,000	\$1,688,000	\$889,250	54	102%
Jan. 2006	3	\$350,000	\$1,310,000	\$874,333	48	100%
2- to 4-unit buildings						
Jan. 2007	4	\$850,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,300,000	46	91%
Dec. 2006	4	\$1,075,000	\$1,775,000	\$1,333,750	53	99%
Jan. 2006	3	\$1,300,000	\$1,635,000	\$1,445,000	46	103%
5+-unit buildings						
Jan. 2007	1	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	\$1,900,000	11	100%
Dec. 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—
Jan. 2006	0	—	—	—	—	—

* Sales figures include all Noe Valley home sales completed during the month. In this survey, Noe Valley is defined as the area bordered by Grand View, 22nd, Guerrero, and 30th streets. The *Voice* thanks Zephyr Real Estate (www.zephyrsf.com) for supplying the sales data.

NV 3 07

erty in 30 days," Kostick says. "Buyers prefer to have a little more time to breathe, to get their inspections and financing done. Unless the market heats back up, I think 45 days is more likely the number we're going to be seeing."

During the rambunctious market we've had from 2001 to mid-2006, buyers frequently presented sellers with a "clean offer" in an effort to outmaneuver competitors for the same property. They often rushed to secure a loan and skipped the inspections needed to check whether a property had termites, dry rot, a faulty furnace, or a leaky roof.

In today's more normal market, sellers are "willing to accept a 45-day close," says Kostick.

The average cost of a single-family home sold in January was \$1,247,000, or

96 percent of the initial asking price. That compared with an average \$972,500 sales price one year earlier, in which buyers paid 99 percent of the asking price and closed escrow in 65 days.

Don't give too much weight to those numbers, however. Altogether, there were only eight homes sold.

A three-bedroom, 2 1/2-bath house in the 1400 block of Noe, between 27th and 28th streets, was the most expensive property sold. Buyers paid \$1,865,000 for the 2,300-square-foot dwelling.

Four condominiums sold in January, one more than in January 2006, at an average sales price of \$684,250. The priciest condo was a two-bedroom, one-bath unit occupying 900 square feet, in the 700 block of Elizabeth Street. It sold for \$815,000.

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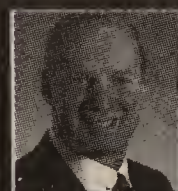
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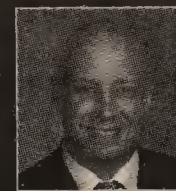
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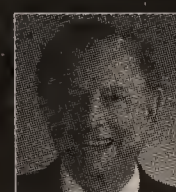
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POLICE BEAT

Police Beat is a review of crime incidents in Noe Valley occurring in the most recent month for which we have statistics. The area covered in the Voice survey is bordered by Grand View, 21st, Fair Oaks, and 30th streets. The January 2007 crime stats were culled from online data as well as from incident reports filed at Mission and Ingleside Police Stations.

Muggings Decline, But Still Nasty

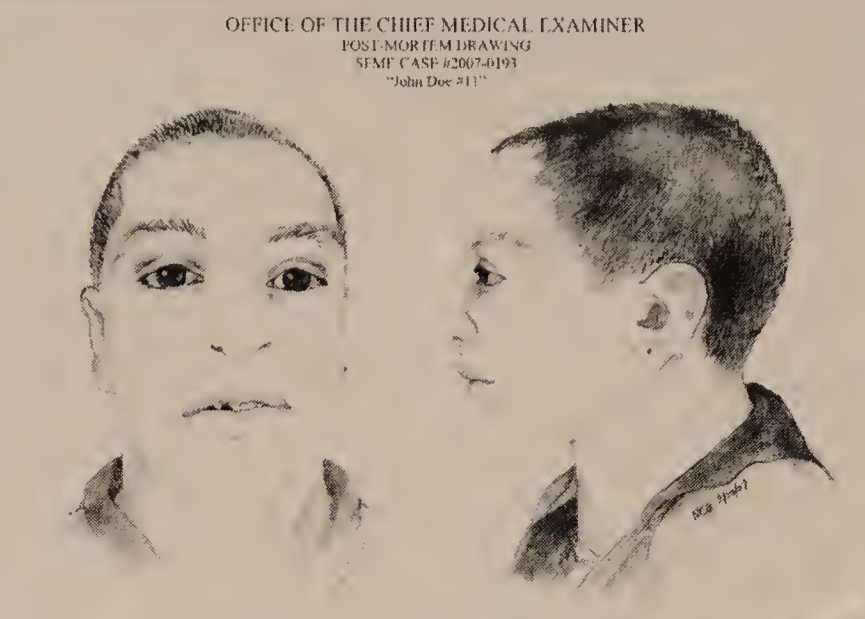
By Erin O'Briant

During the month of January, there were six reported assaults, five drug incidents, 13 burglaries, 15 stolen autos, and 16 cases of theft in Noe Valley—most of which involved stealing from vehicles. The San Francisco Police Department also recorded 15 instances of vandalism in the neighborhood; in one case, the suspect vandalized a tree.

The good news is, after a rash of summer and fall muggings, the number of street robberies in January declined to four. However, in two of the cases, the victims were threatened with guns.

During the early evening of Wednesday, Jan. 10, a person walking at 26th and Dolores streets was confronted by a man who asked what time it was. He then flashed a gun and demanded the victim's wallet. The following evening, a suspect used the same technique when demanding money from a victim walking in the 500 block of Liberty Street. The SFPD's Robbery Detail is investigating these crimes.

In the third robbery, police arrested a juvenile with an outstanding warrant for burglary after responding to a 911 call in which a woman screamed for help at 23rd and Dolores streets. The victim gave of-



The San Francisco Medical Examiner is seeking the public's assistance in the identification of a 20-year-old man who was found unresponsive on the sidewalk in front of 1536 Church Street near 27th Street, on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 6:53 a.m. If you recognize this man, call 553-1694.

Unidentified Body Found on Church Street

By Erin O'Briant

A young man was found dead on outer Church Street just before 7 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 10. He apparently collapsed on the sidewalk at 1536 Church Street near 27th Street. Two weeks later, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner of San Francisco was still searching for the man's identity, and the cause of his death remained under investigation.

A release issued by the office described him as a white or Hispanic male, about 20 years of age, 5 feet 7 inches tall, and weighing 181 pounds. He had short brown hair, brown eyes, and was clean-shaven. He was not wearing any jewelry, but had a pierced left earlobe. There were blue ink markings on his hands and forearms, but no obvious signs of trauma.

At the time of his death, the man was wearing a blue hooded sweatshirt and Anchor Blue jeans. He wore white Nike high-top sport shoes, size 10½, and a white Mecca T-shirt that read, "The first since day one" and "Chase the dream not the competition." He had on SpongeBob-themed boxer shorts.

According to Chief Investigator Alan Pringle, if the man stays unidentified, his body will be cremated and the ashes scattered at sea. The medical examiner's office retains DNA and dental records in case the body is identified in the future.

If you have any information about the man who died, call the San Francisco Medical Examiner at 553-1694 and reference SFME case #2007-0193.

legedly had struck someone and then refused to leave the area. After police arrived on the scene, they subdued the worker and took him into custody.

On Wednesday, Jan. 31, police arrested a man at Upper Noe Recreation Center at 30th and Church streets. Four officers had responded to a report of five people drinking alcohol in the park, but when they detained the suspects, they found a loaded handgun and a substance that appeared to be cocaine. The man in possession of the suspected cocaine admitted that the gun belonged to him, and he was arrested on several charges.

Under the Influence

In addition to the Upper Noe arrest, five other drug-related cases were reported in the neighborhood during January. People were arrested for possession of heroin, methamphetamines, marijuana, and narcotics paraphernalia.

On the evening of Tuesday, Jan. 16, two officers encountered a man in the 600 block of 30th Street, who appeared to be under the influence of drugs. He was detained and arrested. ■

How to Contact the SFPD

The public is invited to attend police-community meetings held monthly at the Ingleside and Mission Police Stations. Ingleside meetings take place on the third Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., at Ingleside Station, 1 Sgt. John Young Lane, off the 2000 block of San Jose Avenue. Mission community meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month, 6 p.m., at Mission Station, 630 Valencia Street near 17th Street.

Noe Valleyans who live north of Cesar Chavez Street (within the bounds of the Mission Police District) may contact Mission Station by calling 558-5400 or e-mailing SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us. To report anonymously on drugs, gangs, or other crimes, call Mission Station's hotline at 575-4444.

Residents and merchants in Upper Noe Valley—south of Cesar Chavez Street—may contact Ingleside police by calling 404-4000 or e-mailing SFPDInglesideStation@ci.sf.ca.us. The Ingleside anonymous tip line is 587-8984.

For citywide online reporting of crimes such as vandalism, vehicle tampering, vehicle burglary, lost property, and harassing phone calls, go to www.sfgov.org/site/police.

To sign up for Ingleside Station's daily crime e-newsletter, e-mail Ingleside Capt. Paul Chignell at Paul.Chignell@sfgov.org. To request the Mission e-newsletter, write Capt. John Goldberg at SFPDMissionStation@ci.sf.ca.us.

To report a crime in progress, call 911. To report a non-emergency problem, call 553-0123.

Online Reporting

The SFPD now has an online reporting system for the following crimes:

- Lost Property
- Theft
- Vandalism
- Vehicle Tampering
- Vehicle Burglary
- Harassing Phone Calls

Using this system allows you to submit a report and immediately print out a copy. Additional information is available at the Police Department's web site: www.sfgov.org/site/police.

ficers a description of the suspect, whom the officers soon caught.

In the final reported robbery of the month, two suspects snatched an iPod from a 15-year-old at 27th and Noe streets the evening of Friday, Jan. 19.

Forced Entries Common

The 13 burglaries in January were only a slight improvement over the burglary rates in November and December 2006, which averaged 14 per month. Among other incidents, a laptop was stolen from the 1500 block of Noe, and a suspect entered through a window and stole household items from a residence in the 100 block of 28th Street.

Nine of the month's reported burglaries involved forced entries or attempted forced entries. One victim living in the 4200 block of 26th Street woke up during the evening of Friday, Jan. 12, to find his back door open and property missing from his house; his back door had been left unlocked.

Men with Problems

Police made two unusual arrests in Noe Valley during January. Two Ingleside Police Station officers responded to a call reporting a drunk and abusive construction worker at a house in the 400 block of 28th Street at 6 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 8. The worker, a resident of Modesto, al-

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Lost in the Rain. The top of Sutro Tower way up and west of Noe Valley is obscured by the first rains of the season.

Photo by Najib Joe Hakim



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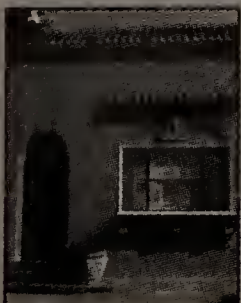
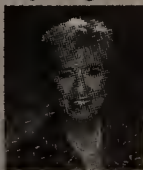
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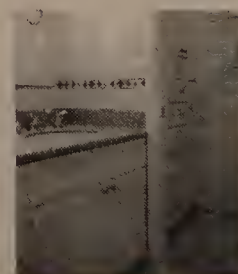
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SHORT TAKES

By Erin O'Briant

Ministry Jazz Is Red Hot

Redhot & Blue, an a cappella jazz singing group from Yale University, will croon jazz classics at the Noe Valley Ministry on Sunday, March 11, at 4:30 p.m.

The director of the group, Drew Levitt, was raised in Noe Valley and is a junior at Yale University. Attendees who hope to hear him perform won't be disappointed, since he also sings in the group. Levitt says he chose the Ministry because the top-floor sanctuary was the perfect venue. "Having grown up here and seen many performances in the venue, I was very familiar with the space," he explains. His parents will be there to cheer him on.

Redhot & Blue's repertoire focuses on jazz standards with a few surprises thrown in. The Noe Valley Ministry is located at 1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street. Tickets are available in advance at Streetlight Records at 3979 24th Street for \$14, online at www.brownpapertickets.com/event/10985 for \$15, and at the door for \$16. For more information about the singing group, visit Redhot's web site at www.yale.edu/redhot/.

Someone Has Designs on 24th Street

The Noe Valley Association, also known as the 24th Street Community Benefit District, has scheduled a third community meeting on long-range plans for 24th Street, on Tuesday, March 6. At the event, Urban Ecology, a streetscape design firm hired by the Noe Valley Association, will present the results of the first two community planning meetings, says Debra Niemann, the NVA's executive director.

According to Niemann, the group has been exploring how to coordinate street furnishings, such as planter and hanging baskets, time clocks, benches, bus shelters, and bike racks, so that they have a distinctive look that sets Noe Valley apart from other neighborhoods.

She says the association is hoping to get input from Noe Valley residents and merchants on sidewalk landscaping, traffic-calming measures, and ways to make the street more pedestrian-friendly. The meeting will start at 7 p.m. at St. Philip's Church at 725 Diamond Street near 24th Street. For more information, contact Niemann at nemo@rcn.com.

Bricks Support the Library

Wouldn't an engraved brick on the outside of the newly restored Noe Valley Library on Jersey Street be a great way to honor your favorite bookworm? The Noe Valley Library Campaign would like you to know that in exchange for a \$250 donation, you can have the name of your choice—a child, friend, pet, beloved grandparent, group, or even your own—engraved on one of the library's bricks. Still, you might want to sign up soon.

"The bricks have been hugely successful," says Kim Drew, chair of the Noe Valley Library Campaign. "The concept of renovating our beautiful branch, brick by brick, so to speak, really resonates with the community."

All proceeds from the campaign will help furnish and equip the library, which is currently under renovation and expected to reopen in early 2008.

To find out more about the library campaign or to claim a brick, contact Marian Chatfield-Taylor at Friends of the San Francisco Public Library at 626-7512, ext. 103, or e-mail marian.ctaylor@friendssfpl.org.

Awards Honor Park Volunteers

Nominate your favorite park group for a Park Stewardship Award by Thursday, March 15, and the organization could win \$2,500 to help with future park projects. The San Francisco Neighborhood Parks Council will present three such awards to especially active and effective volunteer park groups. The council is accepting nominations in three categories: Outstanding Environmental Achievement, Outstanding Effort for a Capital Project, and Outstanding Park Group. Volunteer groups are encouraged to nominate themselves.

Isabel Wade, executive director of the NPC, says the stewardship awards are designed to

honor volunteers, who are "one of our city's greatest civic assets." Mayor Gavin Newsom will be invited to give the awards at NPC's annual Park Stewardship Awards Luncheon in May. The nomination form, criteria, and guidelines are available to download at www.sfnpc.org. For more information, call 621-3260.

The Irish in the Movies

Wear your green and celebrate Irish cinema at the fourth annual San Francisco Irish Film Festival, which comes to the Roxie Film Center at 16th and Valencia streets this month.

The hit Irish comedy *Man About Dog* screens on Saturday night at 9 p.m., and is just one of the festival's 20-plus films and programs.

Half of this year's offerings are comedies; the schedule includes two Irish television shows, gay Irish cinema, and the popular Magners and Shorts program, which features short films and free hard cider.

The four-day event kicked off on March 1 and continues through Sunday, March 4. To purchase tickets and view the complete festival lineup, visit www.sfrishfilm.com or call 495-7380.

Dot Tells Tales for Tots

"As a community actor, I love reading out loud and incorporating characters' voices into the books I read," says Dot Adams, the storyteller host for Story Time, a new weekly reading series at Cover to Cover Booksellers. "Sometimes I look for themes, like love stories for Valentine's Day, but mostly I've been sticking with the books that inspire me in the moment."

Launched in January, the series takes place on Wednesday afternoons from 3 to 4 p.m., and is geared especially for kids ages 2 to 6 (and their parents and caregivers, of course). The bookstore is located at 1307 Castro Street, around the corner from 24th Street.

Adams will be out of town during the first two weeks of March and will resume reading on Wednesday, March 14. But, says store owner Tracy Wynne, Story Time will still take place in Adams' absence. For more information, call Cover to Cover at 282-8080.

Green Thumbs Needed

Love to dig in the dirt? The San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park needs volunteers who have a passion for plants and gardening. A variety of jobs are available, including helping out in the bookstore, library, and nursery; leading garden walks for adults and children; and working in the garden itself.

The Botanical Garden is free and open to the public every day of the year, weekdays from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on weekends and holidays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Free guided walks begin daily at 1:30 p.m.

To volunteer, call 661-1316, ext. 312, e-mail volunteer@sfbotanicalgarden.org, or visit www.sfbotanicalgarden.org.

Free Chance to See Penguins

During two weekends this month, Noe Valley residents can visit the California Academy of Sciences for free. The event is part of a city-wide Neighborhood Free Days program to give San Francisco residents access to the Academy, which is the fourth-largest natural history museum in the country.

Residents of zip code 94110 can get into the museum free on Friday, March 2, through Sunday, March 4. Admission is free Friday, March 30, through Sunday, April 1, for people living in zip codes 94114 and 94131.

The California Academy of Sciences, which includes the Steinhart Aquarium, holds 18 million specimens and supports eight scientific departments. A "Meet the Biologist" program takes place every weekend in March: visitors learn how to care for a variety of animals, including penguins and snakes.

To get in free, visiting adults must prove San Francisco residency by showing a driver's license, utility bill, or other form of valid identification. To find out about free admission for residents outside Noe Valley, as well as the Academy's programs, call 321-8000 or visit www.calacademy.org. The museum is located at 875 Howard Street.

Flowers, Gardens, and Bees—Oh My!

The 22nd annual San Francisco Flower and Garden Show features at least one Noe Valley resident this year. The San Francisco Bee-

keepers Association, organized by 26th Street resident Philip Gerrie, is presenting an educational display on beekeeping.

Gerrie's exhibit is one of many scheduled during the five-day event. The Flower and Garden show includes displays, seminars, and exhibits on gardening, many of them related to the theme of extending living space outdoors. More than 350 exhibitors will offer outdoor-living products, from art that can withstand the elements to sturdy outdoor furniture. Popular garden writers and media personalities will be there, too, and their talks are free with admission.

The show takes place Wednesday, March 21, through Sunday, March 25, at the Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Avenue in Daly City. Doors are open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday and from 9 a.m. until 6 p.m. on Sunday. Adult ticket prices range from \$13 for a half-day pass to \$65 for all five days. Children age 5 and under are admitted free. For a complete information, visit www.gardenshow.com or call 800-569-2832.

Demos Host Panel on Homeless

The Noe Valley Democratic Club will sponsor a panel discussion on homelessness in San Francisco, at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 21, at the Noe Valley Ministry. The speakers for the forum will be Daniel Homsey, director of the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services; Trent Rhorer, director of San Francisco's Human Services Agency; Peter Gabel of Noe Valleyans for Community and Social Justice; and Jennifer Friedenbach of the Coalition on Homelessness.

For more information about the event or the Democratic Club, visit www.noevalleydems.com or call club president Andy Fleischman at 641-5838. The Noe Valley Ministry is at 1021 Sanchez Street between 23rd and Elizabeth streets.

25th Asian American Film Fest

The San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival celebrates its 25th anniversary by showcasing more than 130 films from Thursday, March 15, to Sunday, March 25, in theaters around the Bay Area. The festival kicks off at the Castro Theatre with director Justin Lin's latest feature, *Finishing the Game*. A gala reception will be held afterward at the Asian Art Museum.

To celebrate the festival's 25th year, this year's program includes a look back at significant Asian American cinema. The retrospective features a one-time-only sing-along presentation of *Flower Drum Song* and a revival screening of *Big Trouble in Little China*. New films from local moviemakers include two from residents of the Mission District: M.R. Dhar's *Muzak*, a family drama set in the

aisles of a grocery store, and Lee Wang's documentary *Someone Else's War*, set in the Iraqi war zone. For a detailed festival schedule and to buy tickets, call 865-1588 or visit www.asianamericanfilmfestival.org.

A Space for Dancers

If you think you recognize the newest dancer in Noe Valley, it may be from her performance in the film *Rent*, based on the Broadway musical by the same name. Choreographer and dancer Laura Padierno, who has many dance credits in addition to her film debut, has opened Noe Valley Dance Space at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez Street.

Padierno, a resident of Day Street, is offering a variety of classes, including toddler, child, and adult ballet; modern dance; prenatal ballet; and a twilight adult dance session that fuses jazz, hip-hop, and other dance styles. When teaching kids, she says she realizes that "every child who loves to dance is not necessarily aiming for it as a profession. Rather than having their legs extend to their ears, I focus on other things in class," such as developing flexibility, strength, and creativity.

Padierno is also a fan of ballet for expectant moms. She gave birth to her first child in February, and says that teaching ballet throughout pregnancy gave her a big boost during labor and delivery.

For a class schedule, contact Padierno by calling 341-2186 or e-mailing laura.padierno@hotmail.com. You can also visit her web site at www.noevalleydance.com.

Family Fun This Summer

If you're wondering how to keep your kids busy this summer, the free second annual San Francisco Family Summer Resource Fair is the place to be. Scheduled for Saturday, March 3, from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m., the event is coordinated by the city's Department of Children, Youth, and Their Families. Parents will find information from 200 organizations that provide summer programming—including camps, classes, activities, and services—for San Francisco children.

The fair will be held at the Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove Street at Polk Street. For more information, visit www.dcyf.org, then click on the blue "events" button, or contact Mary Boyle at 845-7079 or mboyle@dcyf.org.

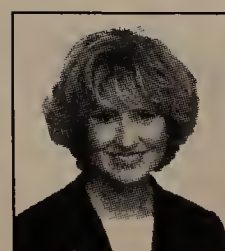


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STORE TREK

By Lorraine Sanders

Store Trek is a regular feature of the *Noe Valley Voice*, profiling new shops and businesses in Noe Valley. This month, we spotlight two stores that have recently changed ownership and expanded their inventory.

NOE VALLEY NATURAL FOODS 3813 24th Street at Church Street 415-647-0755

When Armida Paez, husband Francisco, brother George Montiel, and mother Caroline Perez decided to open Noe Valley Natural Foods in the storefront formerly occupied by Jim and Son's Produce, they had no idea that the neighborhood had spent the last three years suffering the loss of the Real Food/Fresh Organics store on 24th Street. They soon found out.

In the first few weeks following their Dec. 1 opening at 24th and Church streets, the family received ample input from concerned neighbors who feared the store's new owners would stop carrying fresh produce. Luckily, Paez and her family were planning just the opposite. "When we started getting more comments from people, it really encouraged us to bring in more organics," says the mother of two and former office manager at UCSF.

From the outset, stocking healthy foods of all kinds was one of the family's primary goals. While they're too young to work at the store, Paez's sons Alex, 9, and Paco, 4, are a large part of the inspiration for Noe Valley Natural Foods' focus on nutritious foods.

"I have a son that struggles with weight, and I do too," Paez says. "I've always been very frustrated with school lunches, and I've been trying to learn more about health foods for my kids."

Now about half the market's produce is organic, and the owners plan to keep that ratio constant.

"There are people in the neighborhood who are used to having conventional produce, and we don't want to take that away," Paez says.



Alex, 9, and Paco, 4, help their dad and mom—Francisco and Armida Paez—restock the fruits and vegetables at their Noe Valley Natural Foods on 24th Street.

Photo by Beverly Sharp

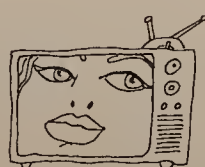
Among the organic offerings are apples, pears, oranges, tomatoes, potatoes, broccoli, and red chard. A six-foot display of organic grains, baking ingredients, nuts, and dried fruits greets patrons as they enter the store. All of the store's produce comes from local farmers who display their goods at the San Francisco Wholesale Produce Market. In addition to organics, Noe Valley Natural Foods now stocks an increased supply of basic and specialty grocery items, including gourmet cookies, crackers, olive oils, preserves, juices, pasta, and sauces.

Every week, the family meets to discuss the store's inventory. Customer input and suggestions for new items are welcome.

"We kind of put our heads together. Mom and I are the ones who do the flowers. The guys don't get involved in that," Paez says, laughing. The two women buy the store's fresh flowers from local growers at the San Francisco Flower Mart.

What's next for this new Noe Valley shop? As soon as they can install the proper refrigeration units, Paez and family plan to beef up the store's offerings with a selection of organic meats and cheeses.

Noe Valley Natural Foods is open daily from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.



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Reviews

Good Ones Coming Soon:

Barat: Cultural Learnings of America Far Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan: Watch Barat mess with real Americans as directed by the guy behind *Seinfeld* and *Curb Your Enthusiasm*. Larry Charles! Fun!

Casina Rayal: 007 Band is back. Gritty but better. Now with parkour, aka free running. Very cool, and a fresh start.

Rocky Balboa: Believe it or not, Sly Stallone has made a critically acclaimed film, and a box office hit. Rocky redux!

RECOMMENDED TITLES:

The Oscars: not always a great show, but sometimes they know a good movie. Nominees already out on DVD that we like are *The Departed*, *Half Nelson*, *Little Miss Sunshine*, *The Devil Wears Prada*, *Water*, *Cars*, *Monster House*, *An Inconvenient Truth*, and *The Illusionist*.

OVERLOOKED GEMS: Movies some people missed.

L'Enfant: Unjustly overlooked for Best Foreign Film (we think), this was one of the best reviewed films of the year. It made less than a mil in the USA.

Brick: This debut makes us want to keep an eye on this director. A modern *Nair*, set in high school, with smart, snappy (and a bit odd, true) dialogue to go with a good story, good acting, good cinematography. See for yourself.

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Over the last year, longtime Noe Valley retailer Peekabootique has gotten a makeover. When Mike Stanton and Michele Furlong took over the children's clothing boutique in late 2005, they knew they had lots of work to do.

"The store before was dark. The carpet was worn through, and half of the lights weren't working. We just wanted to create a bright, friendly, open environment," explains Stanton.

Stanton, who owns the ad agency Agit Prop, and Michele Furlong, a mortgage broker, have updated almost every aspect of the store, right down to the hang tags punched into the clothing. In addition to a new citrus-hued awning that stands out from its neighbors even on the foggiest San Francisco days, pint-sized patrons now walk away with helium balloons sporting a new company logo. Stanton and Furlong also opened up rooms once used as office and storage space to increase the retail square footage by about 35 percent, Stanton estimates.

With more space, the shop has more room for inventory from local designers, including Connie Walkershaw, Pixel, and Stanton's own line of kids' clothing emblazoned with the label Made in San Francisco. Automoblox toy cars, Crocs shoes, Plan Toys products, the California Baby organic bath and skin care line, colorful Baby Legs tights, and McLaren strollers are among the other new items to arrive in the store over the past year.

But the new additions haven't gotten in the way of the store's original niche: used children's clothing. "We actually have more used [clothing] than before," Stanton says.

While in the past, patrons could bring secondhand clothing to sell or trade anytime during store hours, the store now re-



Owners Mike Stanton and Michele Furlong display a colorful array of new and used children's clothes, toys, and maternity wear at Peekabootique. Photo by Pamela Gerard

quires sellers to make appointments during established buying hours (Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, 1 to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.). The store requests that folks who want to sell their used clothing bring a maximum of two large bags per appointment. Any clothing in good condition—for expecting moms or for kids sizes newborn to 6—will be considered, but Stanton says he and Furlong only buy seasonally appropriate items and often need kid sizes 3T to 5T.

Unlike consignment stores, Peekabootique buys clothing from sellers, who can opt to take their payment in cash or trade. The store will begin accepting spring and summer items at the end of the month.

Peekabootique is open Monday through Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Sunday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

"I like Noe Valley because I can get everything within walking distance. I rarely need my car."

Brian Bond, resident since 1995



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Saint Aidan's Episcopal Church

JOIN US THIS HOLY WEEK AND EASTER!!

Maundy Thursday Liturgy	7PM	April 5
Good Friday Liturgy	12 Noon	April 6
The Great Vigil of Easter	8 PM	April 7
Easter Day Liturgy	8 & 10 AM	April 8

101 Gold Mine Drive @ Diamond Heights Blvd
San Francisco, CA 94131
(415) 285 9540
www.saintaidan.org

"A Joyful Community of the Spirit"



Easter at St. Francis ...for all of us

St. Francis Lutheran Church
152 Church Street
(at Market across from Safeway)

Come for Our Easter Worship Service
followed by Children's Easter Egg Hunt
Easter Sunday, April 8 at 11:00 AM

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Palm Sunday, April 1 at 11:00 AM

TRIDUUM - THE THREE DAYS
Maundy Thursday, April 5 at 7:00 PM
Good Friday, April 6 at 7:00 PM
Easter Vigil, Saturday April 7 at Dusk

Easter Sunday, April 8 at 11:00 AM

Would you like to go to church this Easter

- in a place where all are welcome?

- where the inclusive love of God
is proclaimed and lived out?

You are invited to visit us...

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

455 Fair Oaks Street

Between Dolores & Guerrero and 25th & 26th



Sunday, April 8

Kid-Friendly Service - 9 a.m.
Traditional Eucharist - 11 a.m.

Easter Vigil

Saturday Evening 8 p.m.

☛ Palm Sunday (April 1)
9 a.m. & 11 a.m.

☛ Weekday Services
MTW at 6:30 p.m.

☛ Maundy Thursday Services
Thursday at 6:30 p.m.



☛ Good Friday Services
Traditional service at noon
Service of meditation & reflection at 7:30

Regular Sunday Services

Inclusive Family Eucharist - 9 a.m.
Traditional Eucharist - 11 a.m.

Godly Play - A Montessori-style children's program
Sunday Morning at 10 during the school year

Holy Innocents' Episcopal Church

holyinsf.org • 415-824-5142

NOE VALLEY MINISTRY

Presbyterian Church, USA

1021 Sanchez Street at 23rd Street 415-282-2317

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. Childcare provided
Rev. Susan Ashton, Sabbatical Pastor

Spiritual Sustenance: Food and the Lenten Journey

Jazz Vespers with Dave Rocha

Sunday, March 25, 5 p.m.

Palm Sunday, April 1

Service and Procession, 10:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 5

Service of Footwashing, Prayer, Dinner,
Scripture, Song, and Communion, 6:30 p.m.

Easter Morning, April 8

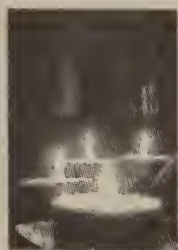
Service Celebrating the Resurrection, 10:30 a.m.
Easter Egg Hunt, Noon
Easter Brunch, Noon

Meditative Labyrinth Walk

Wednesday, April 11, 6:15 p.m.

All Events are Free with Open Seating
Noe Valley Ministry is an Inclusive Church, Welcoming to GLBTs

Join us this month at St. John's!



Taizé at St. John's Christian Meditation and Chant Thursdays, 7:00 pm

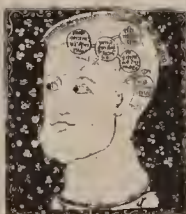
Join us in the candlelit nave of historic St. John's for an hour of beautiful chant and contemplative silence. Developed in a French monastic community of Protestants and Catholics, Taizé (teh-ZAY) combines new music with ancient ritual to create a time of quiet and calm in our much too busy lives. Searchers, inquirers, and people of all spiritual backgrounds welcome. Beginning March 1.

Inquiring Minds: Exploring the Intersections between Christianity and Culture

First Sunday of every month, 6:00-8:00 pm

March 4: "Gender and Sexuality in Nature: What Discovery Channel Won't Tell You" with Stanford scientist and transgender activist Jaan Roughgarden, discussing her book *Evolution's Rainbow*.

April 1: "The Uses and Abuses of the Bible in Science and Human Sexuality" with the Rev. Jay Johnson, Center for Lesbian and Gay Studies in Religion and Ministry, Pacific School of Religion, Berkeley.



Music at St. John's

Saturday, March 17, 6:00 pm

Yuzuru Hiranaka (organ) and Anders Danman (harpsichord)
Music for 2 and 4 hands by Aguilera, Buxtehude, Frescobaldi, Mendelssohn. Featured works include *Trio Sonata VI G major* (Bach), *Fantasy in f-minor for 4 hands, KV 594* (Mozart), and *Fantasy for solo organ* (Ichijyanagi).

Tickets: \$20 at the door.

Holy Week

(see our web site for details)

April 1 Palm Sunday 11 am April 7 Holy Saturday 9 am
April 5 Maundy Thursday 7 pm April 7 Great Vigil of Easter 9 pm
April 6 Good Friday April 8 Easter Sunday 11 am
Stations of the Cross Noon
(with Roman Catholic, Lutheran and MCC churches)
Good Friday Liturgy 7 pm



The Episcopal Church of St. John the Evangelist
Diverse People, Inquiring Minds, Open Hearts
1661 Fifteenth Street (at Julian Avenue), San Francisco
(415) 861-1436 www.saintjohnsf.org
St. John's is an LGBTQ- and family-welcoming parish.



Saint Paul's Parish Holy Week and Easter Services 2007

OUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS ARE INVITED
TO COME AND PRAY WITH US.

PASSION (PALM) SUNDAY
Saturday, March 31
Sunday, April 1

Palms are blessed and given out at all masses
4:30 p.m.
8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m., 11:00 a.m. (Spanish),
12:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

TUESDAY
April 3

Tenebrae Service: Praying the Passion of Jesus
7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY
April 4

RECONCILIATION SERVICE WITH PRIVATE CONFESSION
7:00 p.m. Spanish and English

HOLY THURSDAY
April 5

Mass of the Lord's Supper (Bilingual)
7:30 p.m.
Eucharistic Adoration until 10:00 p.m.

GOOD FRIDAY
April 6

Celebration of the Lord's Passion
Confession / Reconciliation, 11:00 a.m. - Noon
Good Friday Bilingual Services, Noon - 3:00 p.m.
Confession / Reconciliation, 3:00 - 4:00 p.m.

HOLY SATURDAY
April 7

Confession / Reconciliation, 3:30 - 4:30 p.m.
Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection, 7:30 p.m.

EASTER SUNDAY
April 8

Celebration of the Lord's Resurrection
Masses at 8:00 a.m., 9:15, 11:00 (Spanish)
12:30 p.m., and 5:00 p.m.

Together, we shall celebrate new Life!

The Lord has risen. Alleluia!

ST. PAUL'S CHURCH

Valley and Church Streets

San Francisco, California 94131 • 415-648-7538

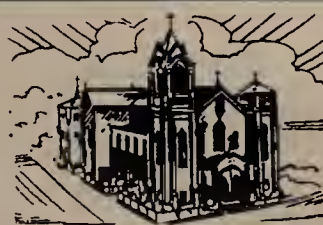
EASTER SUNDAY MASSES at 8, 9:15, 11:00 a.m., 12:30 and 5:00 p.m.

Wishing You a Joyous Easter Celebration!

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH

725 DIAMOND STREET
AT ELIZABETH STREET • 415-282-0141

Cordially invites you to join us for



Holy Week Services 2007

Palm Sunday April 1: The blessing of the palms (outside) before the 10:30 a.m. Mass, with procession into the church.
(Masses: Saturday 5:00 p.m., Sunday 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.).
Palms distributed at all Masses.

Holy Thursday April 5: Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. in the hall. Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 p.m. Concludes with Eucharistic Procession and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament until 10:00 p.m.

Good Friday April 6: Good Friday service begins at Noon, which includes the Good Friday Liturgy celebration of the Lord's Passion.

Holy Saturday April 7: The Easter Vigil begins at 8:00 p.m. with the blessing of the Easter fire and lighting of Easter Candle. The Vigil Mass also includes the blessing of the Easter Water, the celebration of adult baptisms and the renewal of baptismal promises.

Easter Sunday April 8: Masses are: 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

COME AND JOIN US FOR EASTER

The Priests and Parish Community of Saint Philip the Apostle Parish
wish you a Happy and Blessed Easter!

We invite you to discover the Spirit, music, and joy of Easter



at your neighborhood United Methodist Church where we worship each Sunday at 11am— young and old, gay and straight, seasoned church goers and new faith seekers, diverse heritages - all who want more inspiration, community and meaning in their daily lives!

Special Events in addition to Sunday Morning Worship

Palm/Passion Sunday shared Worship Service with Noe Valley Ministry and Dolores St. Baptist Church

Celebrate with us on Sunday, April 1st, at 11am

Free Classical Trumpet and Piano Recital

Sunday, April 1st, 3pm. Music of Telemann, Raphael Mendez, & More!
Dave Scott, Trumpet and Comet, Allison Lovejoy, Piano. Donations accepted.

Easter Sunday Worship Service

Celebrate with us on Sunday, April 8th, at 11am. Special Music will include "Bell Appeal" Handbell Choir!

Family Easter Jazz Concert, featuring Bethany "Bell Appeal" and "Strike 2" Handbell Choirs, and jazz trio!

Easter Sunday, April 8th, 3pm - in the sanctuary.
Donations will be received with appreciation.

Bethany United Methodist Church

Reverend Lauren Chaffee, Pastor

1268 Sanchez st. (@Clipper St.) in San Francisco

www.bethanysf.org (415) 647-8393



• MARCH 2007 •

March 1-3: Lick-Wilmerding High School Visual and Performing Arts Department presents *Once in a Lifetime*, a 1930 Broadway hit COMEDY by Moss Hart and George S. Kaufman. 7:30 pm. 755 Ocean Ave. 333-4021, www.lwhs.org.

March 1-4: The San Francisco IRISH FILM FESTIVAL features more than 20 entries, half of which are comedies. Roxie Film Center, 3117 16th St. For a schedule call 495-7380, or visit www.sflrishfilm.com.

March 1-4: Documentary filmmaker Ken Burns introduces *The War*, his 14-hour World War II saga. 7:30 pm. Castro Theatre, 429 Castro St. 392-4400; www.docfilm.sfsu.edu.

March 1, 8, 15, 22 & 29: The Mission Library hosts preschool STORY TIME at 10:10 am; and bilingual infant/toddler lapsit at 11 am. 300 Bartlett St. 557-4277; www.sjpl.org.

March 1-29: NOE STRDLLS "playgroup on wheels" departs Holey Bagel on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 am. 3872 24th St. www.noestrolls.com.

March 1-29: A Thursday Barbara Stanwyck series starts with the film *Night Nurse* on March 1. Noon. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400; www.sjpl.org.

March 1-30: The Noe Valley SENIOR CENTER serves hot lunches for seniors over 60. Weekdays, 12:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-1030.

March 1-31: PAINTINGS by Noe Valley artist Ben Dominguez are on view in "Tongue in Cheek: Art with a Sense of Humor." Reception Wed., March 21, 5:30-7:30 pm. Monadnock Building, 685 Market St. 647-6050.

March 1-31: Noe Valley photographer LEO HDLUB's retrospective, "Where the Light Is Good," offers a 70-year portrait of the Bay Area. Tues.-Sat., 10 am-5:30 pm. Himmelberger Gallery, 445A Sutter St. 391-8383; www.himmelberggallery.com.

March 1-31: Noe Valley resident DAN HOYLE'S "Tings Dey Happen" wraps up its run at the Marsh. Thurs. & Fri., 8 pm; Sat., 5 pm. 1062 Valencia St. 800-838-3006; www.themarsh.org.

March 1-31: Hear Afro-Cuban salsa, Latin funk, samba, hip-hop, and reggae MUSIC nightly at the Elbo Room. 9 pm. 647 Valencia St. 552-7788; www.elbo.com.

March 2 & 3: Sharon Art Studio holds its SPRING REGISTRATION for classes in ceramics, glass, jewelry, drawing, and water-colors. Fri., 4:30-6 pm (youth); Sat., noon-2 pm (youth & adult). Golden Gate Park, near the Children's Playground. 753-7004; www.sharonartstudio.org.

March 2-4 & March 30-April 1: The Academy of Sciences offers FREE ADMISSION for residents of zip code 94110 (March 2-4); and of zip codes 94114 and 94131 (March 30-April 1). 10 am-5 pm. 875 Howard St. 321-8000; www.calacademy.org.

March 2-30: City College's free Friday WDRKSHOPS for older adults cover topics on healthy eating. 9:30 am-noon. The Sequoias, 1400 Geary Blvd. 551-1122.

March 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30: Crissy Field hosts a parent and tot PLAYTIME from 10 to 11:30 am. 561-7752; www.crissyfield.org.

March 2-30: Chris Sequeira offers TAI CHI classes. Mon. & Tues., 6 pm, at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. For the location of 10:15 am Wed. & Fri. classes, call 773-8185 or 650-756-6857.

March 3: Check out local summer camps, classes, activities, and services at Mayor Gavin Newsom's San Francisco Family SUMMER RESDURCE FAIR. 10 am-3 pm. Bill Graham Civic Auditorium, 99 Grove St; www.dcyf.org.

March 3: Become a gumshoe while you celebrate the year of the pig at the 17th annual CHINESE NEW YEAR Treasure Hunt. Meet at 4:30 pm in Justin Herman Plaza, Market & the Embarcadero. 564-9400; www.sftreasurehunts.com.

March 3: Enjoy music by Orquesta d'Soul and help raise money for Alvarado School at the annual Not So Silent AUCTION 7-11 pm. Fort Mason Center. 648-6158; www.alvaradoschool.net.

March 3-25: PABLO GUARDIDLA's solo show of mixed-media art, "Read, Read, Reread," opens with a reception March 3 at 6 pm. Little Tree Gallery, 3412 22nd St. 643-4929; www.littletreegallery.com.

March 3-31: Precita Eyes offers Mission Trail MURAL WALKS. Sat. & Sun., 11 am & 1:30 pm. Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 2981 24th St. Sat., 11 am, meet at 24th Street BART Station Plaza in Café Venice. 285-2287; tours@precitaeyes.org.



The San Francisco Botanical Garden in Golden Gate Park hosts free birding walks on the first Saturday of the month. Meet at 10 am at Ninth Avenue and Lincoln Way.

March 3-31: Drop-in art WORKSHOPS at the Randall Museum include making a clay snake on March 3, a fuzzy bumblebee on March 10, a leprechaun puppet on March 17, bee prints on March 24, and an April fool's hat on March 31. 1-4 pm. 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

March 4: Rocket Dog Rescue has GDDD DDGS who need homes. Come see them from noon to 4 pm. Zephyr Real Estate, 4040 24th St. 642-4786.

March 4: CounterPulse offers a symposium on DANCE AND DISABILITY. Film screenings, 3-5 pm; performances and panel discussion, 6 pm. 1310 Mission St. 435-7552; www.counterpulse.org.

March 4-25: City Guides offers FREE WALKING TOURS including "Castro: Tales of the Village" Sundays at 11 am. Meet at Harvey Milk Plaza, Castro & Market. 557-4266; www.sfguides.org.

March 5: The ODD MONDAYS SERIES features sound collages by Gregory Moore and videos by artist Terry Berlier. 7 pm at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; no-host dinner, 5:30 pm at Noe Valley Pizza, 24th & Sanchez. 821-2090; jlsender@webtv.net.

March 5-28: The SF Library's BDDKMOBILE is open Mondays and Wednesdays, for your reading convenience, 10:30 am to 1 pm. 665 Elizabeth St. 557-4353.

March 6: The NATYA DANCE Theater performs "Lost Tales," from India. 11 am and 1 pm. Asian Art Museum, Samsung Hall, 200 Larkin St. 581-3500; www.asianart.org.

March 6: The SPCA offers a free PET LOSS support group. 7:30-9 pm. 2500 16th St. 554-3050.

March 6, 13, 20 & 27: The Noe Valley Library offers LAPSITS for babies and toddlers at 10:15 am, and preschool STDY TIME at 11 am. Bethany UMC, 1268 Sanchez St. 647-8393.

March 6, 20 & 27: Share songs and stories at an infant/toddler lapsit at 10:30 am, and afternoon STDY TIME for preschoolers at 3:30 pm. Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616.

March 6-25: The Kadampa Buddhist Temple offers introductory BUDDHIST MEDITATION classes. Tues., 7-8:30 pm; Sun., 10-11:30 am. 3324 17th St. 503-1187.

March 7 & 21: The Ministry's BDOK GROUP is open to all, whether or not you've read the book. 6:15-7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 282-2317; www.noevalleyministry.org.

March 7, 14, 21 & 28: Cover to Cover Booksellers hosts a weekly STORY TIME for kids 2 to 6, from 3 to 4 pm. 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

March 8: St. Luke's Hospital holds a VOL-UNTEER orientation the second Thursday of the month. 3-5 pm. 3555 Cesar Chavez St. 641-6538; www.stlukes-sf.org.

March 8-18: Playwright Joseph Bologna's DRAMA "Lovers and Other Strangers" explores the "inherent struggles of intimate relationships." Thurs-Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 2 pm. Little Theatre, Creative Arts Building, 1600 Holloway Ave. 338-2467; www.sfsu.edu.

March 8-April 26: "Seeing Memory" is an exhibit of PAINTINGS by students at Creativity Explored. Reception March 8, 7-9 pm; open Mon.-Fri., 10 am-3 pm, and Sat., 1-6 pm. 3245 16th St. 863-2108.

March 9: City College presents a tree FLAMENCO GUITAR performance by Grisha 10:30 and 11:15 am. Ocean Campus, 50 Phelan Ave., Arts Building, Room 132. 239-3580.

March 9: *Hearts and Hands*, a 1987 documentary film by Pat Ferrero, looks at the role of DUILTS in the lives of American women. 8 pm. City College Mission Campus, 375 Alabama St. 239-3580.

March 10: Commemorate Arbor Day by planting TREES. 9 am-2 pm. Volunteers meet at Brotherhood Way and Arch Street. 552-9201; www.starborday.org.

March 10: Celebrate IRISH music, history, and culture at the Crossroads Irish American Festival. 1:15-4 pm. Main Library, 100 Larkin St. 571-8948; www.newcollege.edu/irishstudies.

March 10: The Men of St. Paul's host a ST. PATRICK'S DINNER feast, including entertainment and dancing. 6 pm. St. Paul's Parish Hall, 1690 Church St. 648-7538.

March 10: Hear live music by local band Gaucho at James Lick Middle School's annual SILENT AUCTION. 6-10 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 695-5675.

March 10: Miraloma Cooperative Nursery School holds its annual AUCTION, including live jazz entertainment. 6-10 p.m. St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St. 695-9608.

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dinner: nightly 5:30

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Eileen Bermingham, SRES, Pacific Union
Melissa A. Gabe, Law Office of Melissa A. Gabe
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Special guest:
Gary Norman, Edward Jones

Saturday, March 24th
10:00 am - 12:00 pm

On Lok 30th Street Senior Services
225 30th Street @ Dolores

RSVP to Eileen Bermingham
415.345.3186 / ebermingham@pacunion.com

Reserve now. Space is limited.

• CALENDAR •



March 10 & 11: Soloists Elspeth Franks, Daniel Hutchings, Paul Murray, and the full Baroque Orchestra perform with the San Francisco BACH CHOIR. Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 4 pm. Calvary Presbyterian Church, Fillmore & Jackson. 441-4942; www.sfbach.org.

March 10 & 11: Handmade creations will be for sale at the Contemporary CRAFTS MARKET. 10 am-5 pm. Fort Mason Center, Festival Pavilion, Marina Blvd. & Buchanan St. 995-4925; www.craftsource.org.

March 10 & 11: The 12-man vocal group CHANTICLEER performs "Love's Messengers." Sat., 8 pm; Sun., 7 pm. First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. 252-8589; www.chanticleer.org.

March 11: Noe Valley native and Yale junior DREW LEVITT sings and directs the university's a cappella group Redhot & Blue, performing jazz standards. 4:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236.

March 11 & 18: Celebrate WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH by seeing a slide show on "Wendy the Welder." 1-1:45 pm. Maritime National Historical Park Visitor Center Theater, 499 Jefferson St. 561-7000.

March 13: A free workshop on how to present a case in SMALL CLAIMS COURT begins at 6 pm. New College of California School of Law, 50 Fell St. 241-1300.

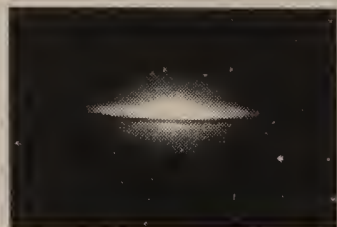
March 14 & 28: The free IRANIAN FILM series at City College continues with *The May Lady* (March 14) and *Friday's Soldiers* (March 28). 1 pm. Rosenberg LLRC, multimedia room 304. 452-5469; www.ccsf.edu/library.

March 14-April 1: CounterPulse presents "Under the Radar," a DANCE performance by Jess Curtis/Gravity dealing with issues of beauty, ability, and disability. Wed.-Sun., 8 pm. 1310 Mission St. 435-7552; www.counterpulse.org.

March 15-22: The S.F. International ASIAN-AMERICAN FILM FESTIVAL opens with *Finishing the Game*, Justin Lin's comedy about the search for a Bruce Lee stand-in (March 15, Castro Theatre, 7 pm). 800-225-2277; www.asianamericanfilmfestival.org.

March 16: HAWAIIAN CHORAL group Na Leo Nahanaha, directed by John Lehrack, performs an evening of music and dance. 8 pm. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 647-6015; www.sfcmc.org.

March 17: The San Francisco Lesbian/Gay FREEDOM BAND performs a free concert, "An Enduring View." 8 pm. Ebenezer Lutheran Church, 678 Portola Drive. 255-1355; www.sflgb.org.



This photo of the Sombrero Galaxy will be in astrophotographer R. Jay GaBany's lecture presentation on March 21, 8 p.m., at the Randall Museum.

March 18: Bicycle to Sam Spade's Tenderloin apartment on a "Dashell Hammett's San Francisco" BICYCLE TOUR. Meet at noon in front of the Ferry Building. 431-BIKE; www.sfbike.org.

March 18: Noe Valley CHAMBER MUSIC presents "Flora, Fauna, and Fantasy," a concert of music by Glinka, Faure, Rossini, Debora Kavasch, and John Marvin. 4 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 648-5236; www.nvcm.org.

March 19: The DDD MNDAYS SERIES hosts a slide show, "Paris Transforming—The Beauty and the Horror of Urban Reconstruction," by author and former mime Leonard Pitt. 7 pm at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.; no-host dinner, 5:30 pm at Noe Valley Pizza, 24th and Sanchez. 821-2090; jlsender@webtv.net.

March 20: Michelle Tea hosts the RADAR SALON, with writers Tara Jenson and Katia Noyes. 7-8:30 pm. Eureka Valley-Harvey Milk Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

March 21: The Noe Valley Democratic Club presents a panel on HOMELESSNESS, with Jennifer Friedenbach, Peter Gabel, and Trent Rhorer. 7:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. rafaelmandelman@yahoo.com.

March 21: S.F. Amateur ASTRONDMERS shows "Postcards from the Universe," with guest speaker R. Jay GaBany. 8 pm. Randall Museum, 199 Museum Way. 554-9600; www.randallmuseum.org.

March 21-25: Noe Valley beekeeper Philip Gerrie will give demonstrations each day at the San Francisco GARDEN SHOW Wed.-Sat., 9 am-8 pm; Sun., 9 am-6 pm. Cow Palace, 2600 Geneva Ave., Daly City. 800-569-2832; www.gardenshow.com.

March 22: "The PUPPET Circus" promises fun for all ages. 10:30 am. Eureka Valley Library, 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

March 24: Singer/songwriters Kris Delmhurst and Ana Egge perform a CDNCERT at 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Music Series at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

March 26: NOE VALLEY AUTHORS Night at the S.F. Mystery Bookstore features Cara Black, Michael Castleman, and Mark Coggin. 6:30-8:30 pm. 4175 24th St. 282-7444.

March 27: NOE VALLEY AUTHORS Night spotlights Lynn Hazen, Leuyen Pham, and Vivian Walsh. 5-8 pm. Cover to Cover Booksellers, 1307 Castro St. 282-8080.

March 27: The Puppet Art Theatre performs "The Boy Who Cried Wolf," for ages 5 and under. 10:30 am. Glen Park Library, 653 Chenery St. 557-4400.

March 27: Learn how to improve your Internet searches at a free CDMPUTER CLASS. 2-4 pm. Main Library, Fifth Floor Training Center, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org.

March 27: A panel discussion, "QUEER in the Arab World, Arab in the Queer World," is the second installment in the "Threat Level: Lavender" series. 6-7:30 pm. Main Library, Koret Auditorium, 100 Larkin St. 557-4400; www.sfpl.org.

March 27: S.F. Media Archive Director Stephen Parr discusses "CINEMATIC SAN FRANCISCO: Amateur and Home Movie Histories." 7 pm. Mission High School Auditorium, 16th & Church. 750-9986; www.sanfranciscohistory.org.

March 28: NOE VALLEY AUTHORS Night features readings by Tamin Ansary, Josie Islin, and Janis Cooke Newman. 7-10 pm. Phoenix Bookstore, 3850 24th St. 821-3477.

March 28: Intersection's annual fundraising ART AUCTION offers the work of over 50 Bay Area artists. 7 pm; available work is on view March 14-28, Wed.-Sat., noon-5 pm. 446 Valencia St. 626-2787; www.theintersection.org.

March 28: Eureka Valley Library's BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP begins at 7:30 pm; call for this month's title. 7:30 pm. 3555 16th St. 355-5616; www.sfpl.org.

March 28: The JEWISH FILM FESTIVAL screens *Hanuszka*, the story of a young girl who hides in a monastery after she escapes the Warsaw ghetto. 7:30 pm. Yerba Buena Center, 701 Mission St. 621-0556; www.sjff.org.

March 29: Upper Noe Neighbors will elect officers and hold a PARTY for neighbors and supporters. 7 pm. 30th Street Senior Center, 225 30th St. 285-0473.

March 29: MISS AMERICAN FIDD is looking for contestants to vie for the title "Worst Spoken Wordist in San Francisco." Sign up 7:30 pm; Show 8 pm. Dark Room Theater, 2263 Mission St. 401-7987; www.amfido.com.

March 29-31: Noe Valley artist SUSAN BISTLINE's work will be on display in "Grids and Graces: Anniversary Show." Thurs. & Fri., 4-7 pm, Sat. & Sun., noon-6 pm. Art Wave Gallery, 3848 Judah St. 244-8402;

March 30: The Apple Hill Chamber Players performs a free concert, "Playing for PEACE," a benefit for the S.F. Music Center's Young Musician Scholarship Program. 9 pm. 544 Capp St. 647-6015; www.applehill.org.

March 31: Learn the basics of sustainable garden design at a FREE WORKSHOP. 10 am-1 pm. Garden for the Environment, 7th Ave. & Lawton. 731-5627; www.garden-fortheenvironment.org.

March 31: Discover your passions and live your dreams at a free WORKSHOP with Sue Agee. 1:30-3:30 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 374-6344.

March 31: "Fiesta," a BENEFIT AUCTION and community celebration, is hosted by Children's Day School. 6:30 pm-midnight. St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough St. 861-5432, ext. 320.

March 31: DANIEL HANDLER hosts "An Evening of a Thousand Scowls," a fundraiser for 826 Valencia's Tutoring Center, featuring Janeane Garofalo, Patton Oswalt, Zach Galifianakis, and Al Madrigal. 8 pm. Masonic Auditorium, 111 California St. 642-5778; www.826valencia.org.

March 31: Noe Valley Music Series presents SLAVYANKA, a men's chorus from Russia. 8:15 pm. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 454-5238; www.noevalleymusicseries.com.

April Is the Coolest Month

So warm up your spring with the *Noe Valley Voice*, which will be distributed in Noe Valley on or before April 1. If you have items for our Calendar, please send them by **March 15**. E-mail calendar@noevalleyvoice.com. Or you can write *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Noe Valley events take priority, but we try to squeeze in as many other items as possible.

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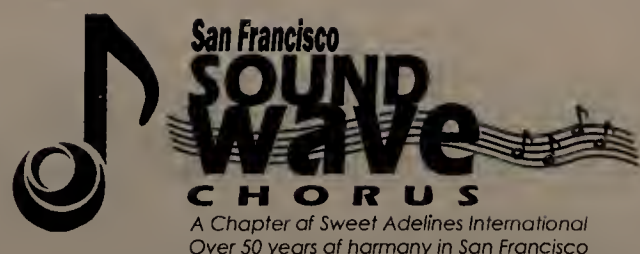
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Samantha Bass and **Aidan Fruth-Lembi** enjoyed their summer reading assignment while splashing around in Hanalei Bay off the island of Kauai in Hawaii.



Noe Valley resident **Julia Young** and her mother **Judith Young** visited the tomb of Mohammed V in Rabat, Morocco last March.



Shane and **Kendra Fallon** read their hometown journal in front of the Mezquita Mosque in Cordoba, Spain.

March to the mailbox and send your photo and caption info today to the *Noe Valley Voice*, Attn: Readers, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114, or e-mail editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Thank you!

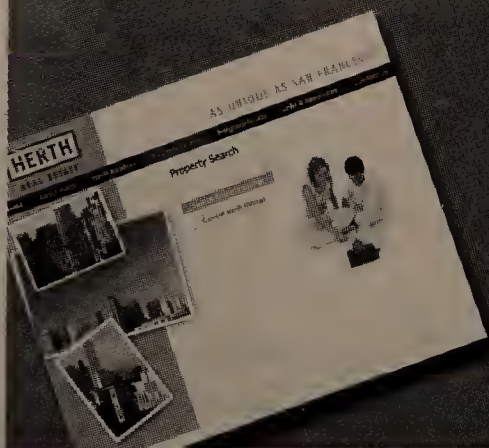
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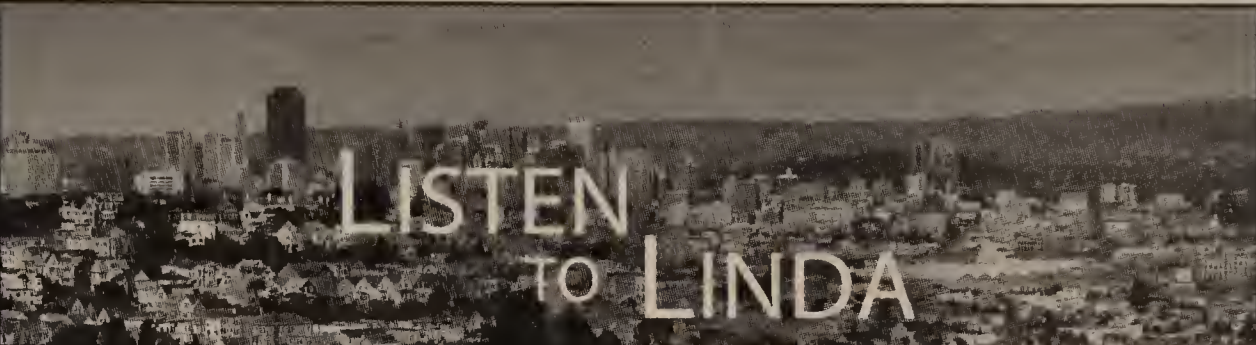
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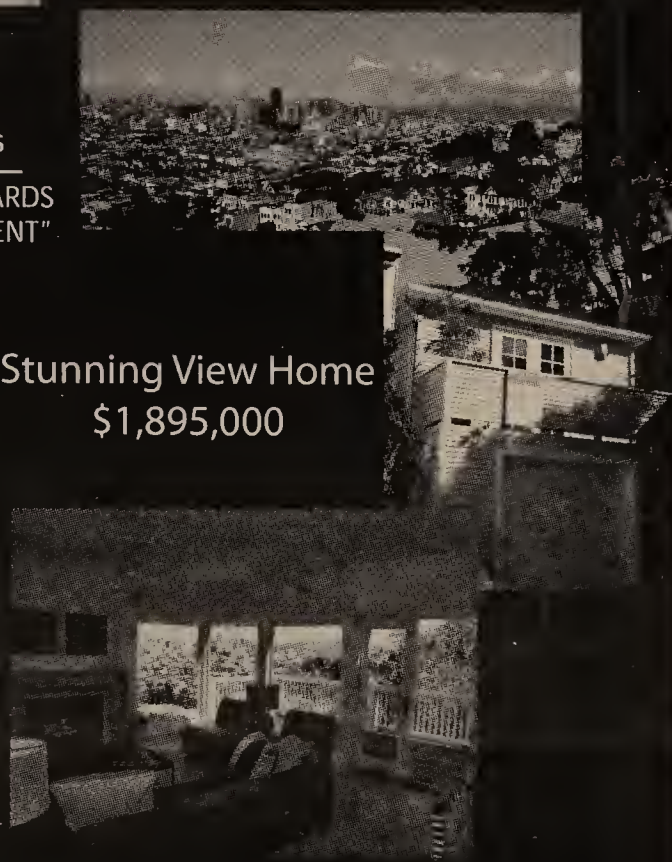
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An Eye on the New Year

Editor's Note: In February of 1993, when this essay was first published in the Voice, Florence's husband Leo Holub had just finished a photography commission for Stanford University, where he had earlier spent more than 20 years as a photographer, artist, and faculty member. Today, new generations can enjoy Leo's photos at a retrospective exhibition being held in downtown San Francisco. Part II of "Leo Holub: Where the Light Is Right," featuring 70 images of 20th-century artists, San Francisco cityscapes, and natural wonders observed from the Hohubs' porch on 21st Street, will run March 1 to 31 at the Himmelberger Gallery, 445A Sutter Street (www.himmelberggallery.com).

It seemed like old times this December, getting our Christmas card out so late that we had to update it to a New Year's card!

But there was a good reason for such tardiness: my man Leo and I were involved in a rewarding but time-consuming project. (This column is really Leo's story, but modesty prevents him from telling it, so with pride I shall!)

It all began in early autumn, when a group of Stanford Associates (the honor society of alumni and friends that encourages volunteer service to Stanford) approached Leo with a proposal. They asked him if he would consider printing a limited-edition portfolio (100) of four of his classic Stanford photographs, to be sold to raise money for much-needed services in the arts. Leo said he would be pleased to participate.

Invitations went out, culminating in a reception and exhibit of Leo's "Stanford Classics" and other work at the Stanford Art Gallery on Nov. 13, 1992. There, after being introduced in triplicate and in glowing terms by Stanford dignitaries, Leo faced his audience to deliver a delightful speech, a portion of which I would like to share with you here:

"It is true that I joined the Art Department in 1969, but I first came to Stanford in the fall of 1960 as a

FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

Illustrated Reminiscences by Florence Holub



"Little girl and pigeons," a photo taken in 1963 on Maiden Lane in downtown San Francisco, is a standout in the Himmelberger Gallery's two-part retrospective of Leo Holub's work as well as in a new book titled *Leo Holub: A Lifetime of Photography*. Photo courtesy Leo Holub

designer and photographer, upon the invitation of the planning director. The incoming freshman class also arrived and, unbeknownst to one another, we grew to fall under the spell of Stanford. That class went on to commencement in 1964, but I stayed on for another 16 years—unmatriculated, ungraduated....

"As I slowly drifted along my river of time, in a rowboat without oars, the student population remained on the banks, forever age 17 to 21, creating for me a sort of Doppler effect of aging. Except for the clothes, the students I see tomorrow will look exactly like 'my' class of 1964. This building, too, is 'my' building—the Thomas Welton Gallery, its cornerstone laid in 1916, the year of my birth. My building, the focus of most of my Stanford triumphs, climaxing in this glorious evening."

Leo's job as a photographer at Stanford's Planning Department included working with the Development Office, in particular with a woman named Ann Rosener. In 1964, Ann compiled 245 of Leo's prints, to form the exhibition "Stanford Seen."

These photographs of campus life filled all the university gallery's rooms, and the exhibit set an attendance record. In 1976, it was followed by a second show of Leo's work, this time of 145 prints.

that the students spent the night before the first day of registration in sleeping bags outside the Art Building. As the interest grew, another lecturer was added, and during our 10-year tenure, we together nurtured 3,500 students, with a success rate of 98.7 percent."

When Leo retired from Stanford in 1980, he was taken aside and told, "We are not going to give you a watch or a golden handshake. But our curator is organizing a surprise show of some of your prime graduates featuring 13 'all-stars' who have gone on to graduate school, teaching jobs, or exhibitions." Stanford titled the show "Thanks to Leo!"

Two years later, the Stanford Alumni Association published a book of Leo's photos, *Leo Holub, Photographer*.

During the last decade, Leo has spent a great deal of time photographing the artists whose works comprise the Anderson Collection of Modern and Contemporary Prints. He gave Stanford a working portfolio of these prints, which was installed last fall in conjunction with the Anderson Collection exhibition at the Stanford Art Gallery.

But at the end of his "Stanford Classics" speech in November, Leo asked for "a few parting shots." And with that, he raised his camera to his eye and, moving left to right, snapped a series of panoramic shots, capturing his beaming audience on film forever.

I too have been an admiring audience for my husband for over 50 years. So I must add that here on the home front his photography has necessitated some minor adjustments.

For example, when the first big exhibition required that hundreds of prints come out of the darkroom to dry, every flat space in our Noe Valley home was utilized. The deck out back, the rugs inside, and the beds upstairs were all covered with damp photographs.

Occasionally, they got stepped on, and often after they dried, we went to bed only to find ourselves enveloped in clammy blankets. This led to an alterna-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 38



Florence and Leo Holub, shown at a recent reception for "Leo Holub: Where the Light Is Right," an exhibition continuing through March 2007 at the Himmelberger Gallery in San Francisco. Photo by Beverly Tharp



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FLORENCE'S FAMILY ALBUM

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 37

tive drying technique: I ironed every damp photograph on the kitchen ironing board, face down—that is, until Leo built drying racks in the basement.

It also took a while for me to learn that I must not turn on the washing machine when Leo is using his enlarger. The power drain—oops—results in a ruined, underdeveloped print and a waste of extremely expensive paper.

One of the benefits of having a photographer around the house, however, has been the marvelous visual record Leo kept of our sons as they grew and matured.

He kept another album, too, of his students, or his “kids,” as he calls them—although many are now approaching middle age and have children of their own. They keep in touch, send photographs, and visit whenever they come to town.

A few months ago, in fact, one of



Another photo in the Leo Holub show at the Himmelberger Gallery is “Nate Oliveira, inking litho stone, Stanford, 1971.”
Photo by Leo Holub

Leo’s “all-stars” came to town on a photo assignment and stayed with us for a week, sleeping on the living room couch. We couldn’t help but notice how comfortably he fit into our lifestyle, with his camera gear and photographs (which were breathtaking, by the way).

I have also grown accustomed over the years to opening our home to a fascinating array of Leo’s mentors and peers. One of our most beloved visitors

for over 40 years was Leo’s personal friend and adviser, artist Imogen Cunningham. I remember one time when Leo photographed Imogen while she was sitting in a rocking chair on our back deck. The light was fading fast as Leo fiddled with the focus on his subject, so Imogen quietly but knowingly slipped her foot under the rocker to keep it still. She always said that she particularly liked that

photograph—perhaps because she had contributed to its success.

At the age of 75, my husband the photographer is as busy and productive as ever. So we were well into December before Leo came out of the darkroom and finally got around to helping with the Christmas cards.

At that point it seemed natural and appropriate for us to have our printer son, Jan, lithograph the same photograph that was used to illustrate the “Stanford Classics” invitation. Our cards finally went out with a reproduction of “Inner Courts, Roofs” (1961) on the face, and with a hastily inscribed “Happy New Year from Florence and Leo” inside.

P.S. In early January [1993], to our amazement the mailman brought an elegantly engraved invitation from William Jefferson Clinton to attend his inauguration in Washington, D.C.

Leo wasn’t invited, just “Florence Holub,” with no idea why—unless someone up there reads the *Noe Valley Voice*!

I didn’t attend, but watched the inspiring proceedings on TV—shouting, waving, and clapping joyously from the well-used couch in our Noe Valley parlor.

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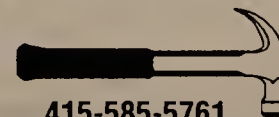
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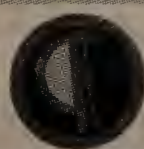
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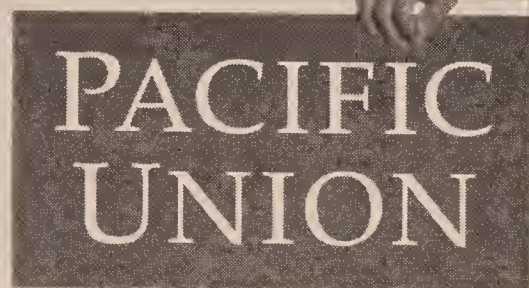
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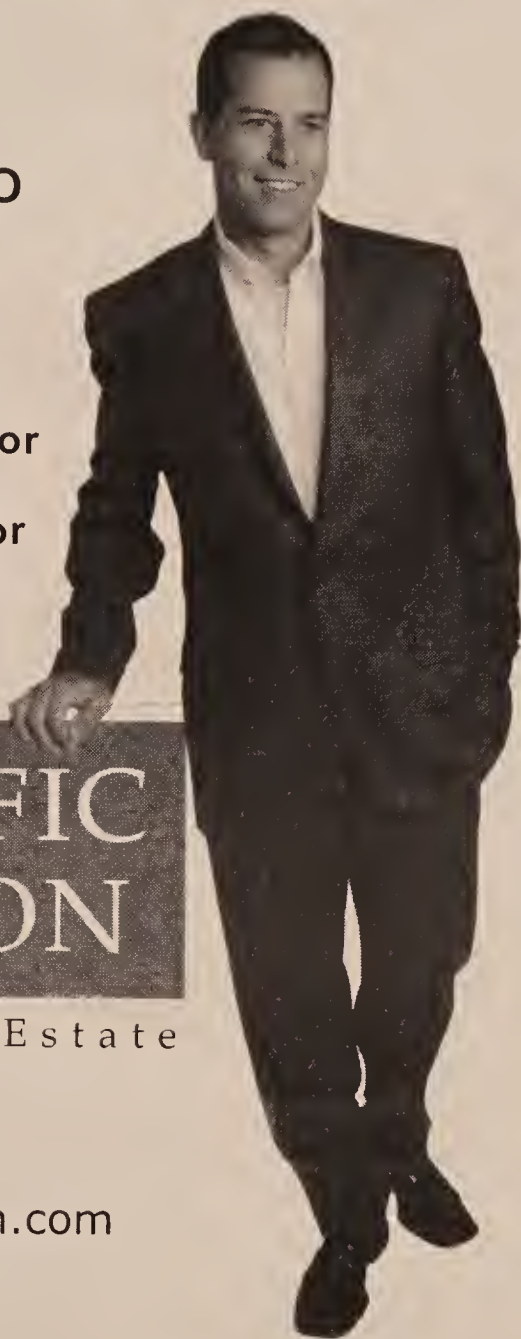


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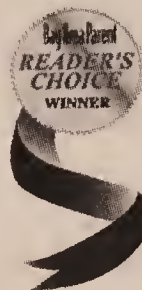
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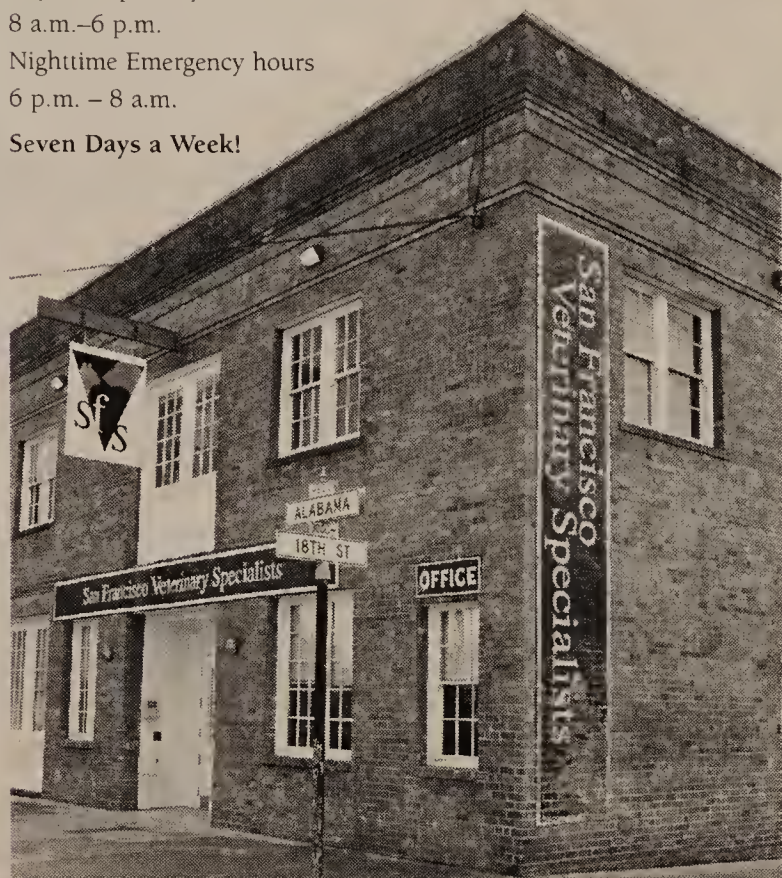
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VOICE ARTIFACTS

THE NOE VALLEY VOICE web site at www.noevalleyvoice.com offers the current news stories, features, and Class Ads. The site also has Voice archives from 1996 to the present. Copies of the newsprint edition dating back to May 1977 are stored in the History Room of the Main Branch of the San Francisco Public Library.



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Snow at St. Philip Preschool. These kids got to play with the real thing as snow was brought in to enhance their Winter Days curriculum. "We'd been reading snow related stories, learning about animals that live in icy cold climates and the different shapes of snowflakes," said school director Hope Peterson. The children also participated in making their own mini-icys with whole juice which was their ticket to the snow event in the Preschool Play Yard in February.

Photo by Paula Whitehead



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Grades K – 5: June 25 – August 17 (8 weeks)
Grades 6 – 8: June 25 – August 3 (6 weeks)
Morning Session: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
Lunch Break: 12:00 noon – 12:30 p.m.
Afternoon Session: 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. (3:00 p.m. for K – 1)
Extended Care: 8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

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Grades K – 1: \$150 morning; \$250 all day
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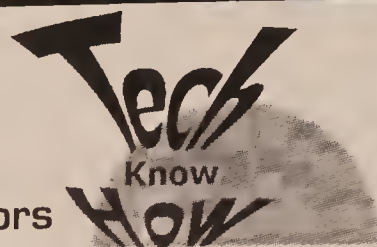
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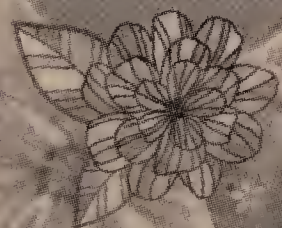
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SCHOOL REPORT

Volunteers and parents report on the victories (and parties) celebrated at three neighborhood public schools: James Lick Middle School, and Fairmount and Alvarado elementary schools.

JAMES LICK

Lick Wins City Soccer Championship

James Lick's soccer team shut out long-dominant Horace Mann to win the San Francisco Middle School Soccer Championship for the first time in 40 years. The last time Lick won the city championship was in 1967, and Jorge Santana was on the team!

The grueling road to the championship was a triumph of spirit and hard work, both on and off the soccer field. With 80 eager students trying out for a team that can only field 11 players at a time, more than 30 eventually made the co-ed roster, giving this small middle school the largest team in the district. Lacking a turf field, the kids had to practice after school on the hard blacktop playground. But all were heartened when two students who were unable to play due to low marks managed to raise their grades in time to play in the crucial final games.

In the semifinals, the Bulldogs overcame Herbert Hoover—the only undefeated team, and the only team that beat us during the regular season—with a score of 4-1. Finally, on Feb. 16, Kezar turned into “James Lick Stadium,” and our kids scored five unanswered goals to overcome Horace Mann, for decades the reigning city champions.

Coach Rogelio Orihuela (“Mr. O”) credits the team for playing “with great heart,” and he thanks the hundreds of kids, parents, and teachers who came out to support the team in the championship game. “The Martinez family donated pupusas for the champions. For a moment, Kezar became James Lick Stadium. We had to wait 40 years, but we did it!”

Orihuela also salutes the contributions of Ray Ponce, “a teacher, a mentor, and a friend of our students. After retiring from 36 years of working as a teacher, he still works with us.” Congratulations, Bulldogs!

James Lick Teacher Honored

Eighth-grade math teacher Karen Berman was named February Teacher of the Month by 826 Valencia, a non-profit writing workshop and tutoring center located in the Mission District. Ms. Berman believes that all of her students are capable of tackling algebra, and she teaches it to everyone, including students who are below grade level in math.

The gang at 826 Valencia recognized Berman's innovative use of storytelling to help kids understand the sometimes bewildering new concepts. Her students call her “an amazing teacher” because she explains everything by making up stories, so that everybody learns and understands what she says. For example, Berman explains multiplying bases with exponents as “the babies coming to the mama”—an image her students won't easily forget!

Berman also teaches an extra class after school to ensure that every student gets a chance to succeed. Now students who were previously struggling with math are getting their homework done and raising their grades. Congratulations, Ms. Berman!

Going, Going, Gone...

Need legal services, electrical work, or eight hours of custom carpentry? Sushi or bagels? Knitting instruction or highlights

for your hair? Don't miss the opportunity to bid on hundreds of items donated by neighborhood merchants and professionals—including sculpture by Ruth Asawa, high tea for one, a divorce consultation, and rock-climbing classes—at our annual silent auction on Saturday, March 10, at the Noe Valley Ministry (1021 Sanchez Street near 23rd Street) from 6 to 10 p.m. Join us for an abundance of appetizers and beverages, and live music by local band Gaucho.

Proceeds will help JLMS celebrate 75 years in Noe Valley and raise money for student programs. Tickets are still available, for \$15 in advance or \$20 at the door. Please call 415-826-3565 or visit jameslickpta.org for more information or to donate an item.

Looking Toward the Future

School Assignments and Tours: On March 16 the district's eighth-graders will learn where they will attend high school next year. At the same time, fifth-graders will learn their sixth-grade assignments, so we will resume weekly school tours on Thursdays at 9 a.m., for parents whose children were assigned to Lick and who would like to take another look.

75th Anniversary Fete and Peace Garden Dedication: Don't forget to save the date for our official 75th Anniversary Celebration on Saturday, May 12, here at the school.

Wish List: We're still looking for pictures, yearbooks, trophies, report cards, stories from neighbors, parents, or grandparents who attended the school, and any other artifacts of our school's rich history to replace school archives lost during relocation and remodeling activities in past years.

Chat with Principal Carmelo Sgarlato. Call to confirm March date—usually on a Friday at 8:30 a.m.

Find Us on the Web: www.jameslickpta.org.

—Sue Cattoche

FAIRMOUNT

S.F. Ballet Partnership Continues to Grow

The San Francisco Ballet's Dance in the Schools and Community (DISC) program continues to thrive in its third year at Fairmount Elementary School. The program works with all three second-grade classes, engaging them in the world of modern dance for six-week sessions. The Ballet awarded scholarships to seven of last year's students, now third-graders.

The four boys and three girls are currently taking after-school classes twice a week at the Ballet's Civic Center location. Charles “Chip” McNeal, the program director and dance instructor, works with the dancers, who participate in separate boys' and girls' classes.

Parents were recently treated to an open class session where they were able to view their students' progress as dancers and observe the teaching and performance movements up close and personal. Afterward, the Ballet hosted a reception for the students and parents from all the schools participating in the program.

Students and their families are also exposed to the professional world of ballet through complimentary tickets to the *Nutcracker* and other San Francisco Ballet productions, including the innovative *Artifact Suite*, which had these students, with a new awareness of the difficulty of the movements, on the edges of their seats. Bravo to the Ballet and the DISC program for bringing dance to our students.

Dual Immersion Program Draws Big Crowds

When the dust had settled and all the application forms had been processed, the verdict was in. Fairmount's tremendously successful dual Spanish immersion programs drew 187 first-choice applications for the 40 kindergarten openings for the 2007-08 school year. Potential Fairmount parents were also impressed with the school's Tuesday tours and the opportunity to talk with El Director/Principal Karling Aguilera-Fort about the school's focus on academic growth, as well as providing a wide variety of arts and cultural enrichment.

Of Tamales and Teaching

As the second semester swung into gear, 70 parents showed up for the community summit one night in February, while 100 of their kids trotted off to the library for movie night. After watching a Mayan play performed by first- and second-graders, parents feasted on tamales as teachers explained the evaluation data that is being used by the school to measure progress and pinpoint where students need extra work.

Teachers also explained a new language arts program that is being used in both English and Spanish classes. “It's basically a teachers' guide that works as a bilingual language arts manual,” says Ken Jones, chairman of the School Site Council. “This will take kids well beyond the basics. It sounds like it may be the greatest thing since sliced bread. It is offering teachers more innovative ways to

SCHOOL CONTACTS

Alvarado Elementary School
Gene Barresi, Principal
625 Douglass Street at Alvarado
415-695-5695
www.alvaradoschool.net

Fairmount Elementary School
Karling Aguilera-Fort, Principal
65 Chenery Street at Randall
415-695-5669
www.fairmountschoolpta.org

James Lick Middle School
Carmelo Sgarlato, Principal
1220 Noe Street at 25th Street
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teach language arts.”

The meeting also included a discussion on what parents can do to support what's going on in the classroom. Teachers discussed ideas such as playing math games with darts, dominoes, and cards, using addition and subtraction in the games.

FiestaVal Approaches

Fairmount's annual spring carnival, student performances, and silent auction are revving up for May. We appreciate the contributions and support rendered by Noe Valley and many other community businesses, restaurants, and shops. Last year, the school community was able to raise over \$35,000 to support our multi-cultural arts programs. If you have something to donate (and what an easy advertisement for your great shop or restaurant!), please call the school at 695-5669.

—Tom Ruiz

ALVARADO

The Not-So-Silent Auction Starts with a Bang!

Alvarado Elementary invites you to join the school's families and staff at our annual Not So Silent Auction. This year's event takes place on Saturday, March 3, from 7 to 11 p.m. at Fort Mason Conference Center in the Marina District.

The highlight of the event is the live auction, which begins at 8:15 p.m. In addition to the fantastic art projects donated by the Alvarado classrooms, this year's auction features works by famous Bay Area artists such as Eric Zener and Betty Guy. The silent auction is open from 7 to 10 p.m. and includes donations such as fine dinners in local restaurants, instructional classes, vacation getaways, and lots more.

Come out and support your neighborhood elementary school and perhaps walk away with a bargain or two. Complimentary finger food and beverages will be served throughout the evening.

All proceeds from this event go toward providing excellent academic and artistic programs for Alvarado students and maintaining a safe and attractive learning environment.

Want to Teach After School?

The spring semester of afternoon enrichment classes at Alvarado began in February. The PTA sponsors a wide range of classes guaranteed to interest everyone, including drama, clay modeling, knitting, chess, yoga, painting, Poco Loco drumming, and German.

The spring classes take place after school, one afternoon each week. Many of the enrichment classes end with a school performance at the end of the year. Many thanks to the PTA members who volunteer to organize and teach! Their hard work makes these classes possible.

If you would like to teach a class for the fall semester, please contact the Alvarado PTA. Call 695-5695 or check us out at www.alvaradoschool.net.

—Dan Willhite



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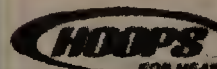
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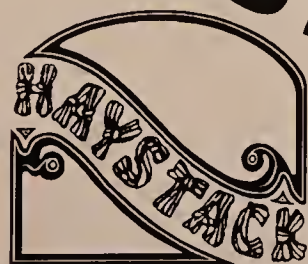
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MORE BOOKS TO READ

This month's new book list, provided by San Francisco librarians Pam Ow and Carol Small (and *Voice* bookworm Karol Barske), offers a book on great feuds in mathematics—what William Dunham calls “weapons of math destruction”—and a story for kids about a medieval summer camp. To find out if these books are available, or to look for other books, films, or CDs, call or stop by a local branch library or visit the San Francisco Public Library online at www.sfpl.org. Be aware that the Noe Valley–Sally Brunn Library at 451 Jersey Street is closed for renovation until late this year. For information, call 557-4400.

Adult Fiction

■ A devil named Dieter tells the story of Adolph Hitler's early obsessions and dysfunctional family life, in *The Castle in the Forest* by Norman Mailer.

■ In the early 20th century, a 17-year-old Boston girl is imprisoned in a detention camp for contracting a “social disease,” in *Charity Girl* by Michael Lowenthal.

■ Christopher Moore's *You Suck*, a sequel to his 1995 book *Bloodsucking Friends*, is a raunchy slapstick comedy of young vampires in love.

■ In *Let the Northern Lights Erase Your Name*, by Vendela Vida, a young woman abandoned by her mother sets off to search for her birth father in Lapland.

Adult Nonfiction

■ Hal Hellman's *Great Feuds in Mathematics* begins with a dispute between Descartes and Fermat and ends with the question: Are mathematical advances discoveries or inventions?

■ In *The Girls Who Went Away*, author Ann Fessler compiles oral histories from women who surrendered their children for adoption in the years before *Roe v. Wade*.

■ *Popular Mechanics: The Boy Mechanic* provides plans for 200 projects featured in the magazine from 1900 through 1920, including handcrafted furniture, kitchen utensils, and toys.

■ In *Finding Oprah's Roots: Finding Your Own*, Henry Louis Gates Jr. offers clues to tracing the African-American family tree.

—Karol Barske, Noe Valley Voice staff

Children's Fiction

■ At first, Wombat makes fun of Platypus' funny appearance, but they become friends as Platypus kindly teaches Wombat to swim, in Charles Fuge's *Swim, Little Wombat, Swim!* Ages 3 to 5.

■ The ever-confident, imaginative piglet declares that “you can't have fireworks without a band,” so *Olivia Forms a Band*, in the newest humorous offering from Ian Falconer. Ages 3 to 7.

■ Wiglaf thought that summer camp would be fun, but it isn't working out that way. There's a terrible smell, the weather is always cloudy, and when it's dark he hears strange howling sounds, in Kate McMullan's *Hail! Hail! Camp Dragononka!* (Dragon Slayers' Academy series). Ages 8 to 10. (Recommended by Carol Small)

■ Fifteen-year-old Miguel and his younger sister, Elena, face extreme danger on their journey from Mexico to cross *La Línea*, the border, in order to join their parents in California. Author Ann Jaramillo, a middle school ESL teacher in Salinas, based this novel on real events. Ages 10 and older.

Children's Nonfiction

■ Judith Williams' “I Like Weather!” series introduces young readers to basic facts about weather conditions. Each book includes a simple experiment, reading list, and web sites. The titles are: *How Does the Sun Make Weather?*, *Why Is It Raining?*, *Why Is It Snowing?*, and *Why Is It Windy?* Ages 5 to 9.

■ *This Little Piggy: Lap Songs, Finger Plays, Clapping Games, and Pantomime Rhymes*, edited by Jane Yolen, with pig-filled illustrations by Will Hillenbrand and musical arrangements by Adam Stemple, comes with a CD so that parents and caregivers of babies and toddlers may expand their repertoire.

—Pam Ow, Eureka Valley–Harvey Milk Library

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LIBRARY EVENTS

Tuesday Is Song and Story Time

■ Your baby or toddler will enjoy singing songs and playing patty cake at the 10:15 a.m. *lapsits*, held Tuesdays at Bethany United Methodist Church. The dates this month are March 6, 13, 20, and 27.

■ Bethany Church also hosts the *preschool story time*, a read-aloud program for children ages 3 to 5, at 11 a.m. on Tuesdays, March 6, 13, 20, and 27.

Note: Because the Noe Valley Library is closed for renovation, programs are held at Bethany Church, at 1268 Sanchez Street, on the corner of Sanchez and Clipper.

■ The Noe Valley *Bookmobile* makes a bee-line to 665 Elizabeth Street near Diamond Street on Mondays and Wednesdays from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.



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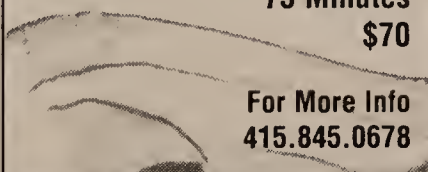

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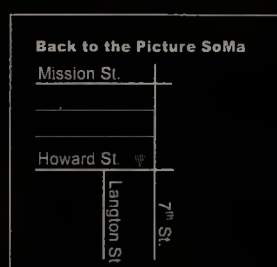
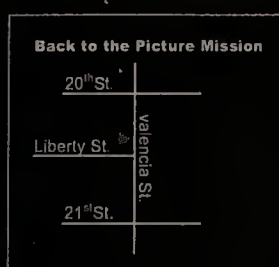
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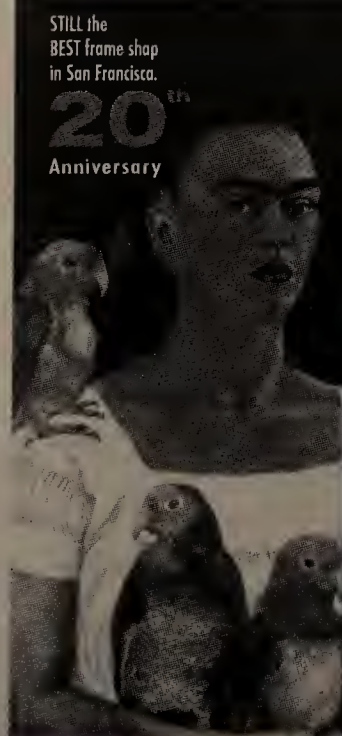
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Words Wanted: The Noe Valley Voice welcomes submissions of stories, poems, and essays. Write lastname@noevalleyvoice.com or send manuscript, plus name, phone, and e-mail to Noe Valley Voice, 1021 Sanchez Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Include SASE if you need materials returned.



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10 for 10 discount: The Noe Valley Voice publishes 10 months a year. (We're on vacation in January and August.) If you place the *same* class ad in 10 issues, you are entitled to a 10 percent discount. To figure your cost, deduct 10 percent from the total amount due for 10 issues.

The next Voice will be the April 2007 issue, distributed in Noe Valley on or before April 1. **The deadline for Class Ads is March 15, 2007.**

Note: The Class Ads are printed in the newspaper and then displayed for one month on our web site: www.noevalleyvoice.com.

Class advertisers should keep in mind that only the first few words of the ad (not to exceed one line of type) will be set in bold. Also, receipts and tear sheets will be provided only if your order is accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope. Thank you for your support.

The Voice Web Site

has news and photos from the current issue, and searchable archives dating back to 1996.

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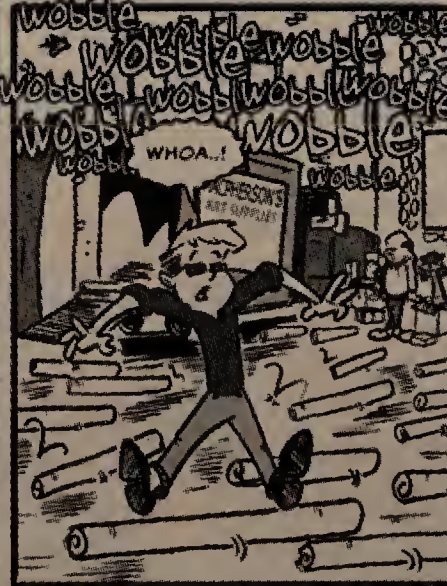
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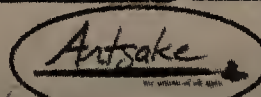
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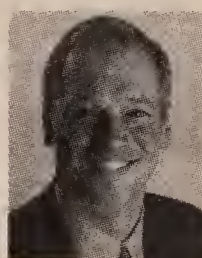
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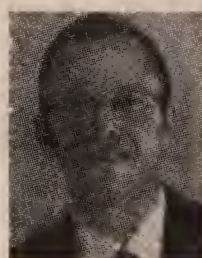
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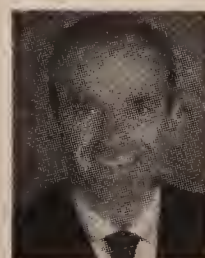
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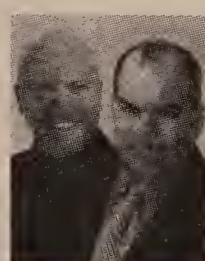
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and now for the RUMORS behind the news

Food Glorious Food

By Mazook

THE KIM FAMILY benefit dinner at Incanto Restaurant on Feb. 26, staged by the chefs of Noe Valley, was a resounding success. Ninety people showed up for the gala event, which had been organized by Four Seasons chef (and Sanchez Street resident) Jeremy Emmerson to boost the neighborhood's Kim Family Fund. The fund, created by Artery studio owner Paula Benton and co-sponsored by more than a dozen Noe Valley groups, is primarily for Kati Kim and her two young daughters, who lost their heroic dad, James Kim, while stranded in a snowstorm in Oregon. The Kims live on Randall Street, and own the small Church Street Apothecary.

"We did great," said Benton, when asked about the turnout. "Ninety people came at \$175 per dinner, so you do the math." We did do the math—that's a whopping \$15,750.

"We had *many* people from the neighborhood attend, and people came from all over the city," said Benton. "And we received another \$6,000 at the silent auction [during the event]. We reached our goal, which will really help the Kim family." The Kim Family Fund now is up to \$35,875. (But you can still donate at www.kimfamilyfund.com.)

The dinner was truly a feast. For starters, Deep Sushi provided dashi-

steamed monkfish foie with pickled cucumber, shiso, and Santa Barbara uni. Next came Bistro 1689's bibb lettuce salad with macerated mango and lobster vinaigrette; then Pescheria's duck ravioli, goat cheese, and sage. The entrée was Incanto's braised pork shoulder with rapinis, lemon, garlic, and anchovies (paired with Lacrima di Morro d'Alba, 2003 Monte Schiavo). Dessert was a chocolate trio from Four Seasons' maestro Emmerson: warm chocolate cake, chocolate pot de crème, and white chocolate ice cream. There were breads from Noe Valley Bakery and hors d'oeuvres during the auction from Fattoush and Eric's Restaurant. The flora was courtesy of Flowers of the Valley, and the entire Incanto wait staff was at every diner's beck and call.

"This is just fantastic support from our community," said Emmerson, who should be congratulated along with Incanto owner Mark Pastore for pulling off a spectacular fundraising event.



CHURCH STREET CHEFS are hot these days. As you rumormongers know, Incanto Chef Chris Cosentino battled with Chef Mario Battali on a Food Channel taping of *Iron Chef America* last fall. Cosentino says he's not sure when the show will be aired. "They told me it would be broadcast 'in the second quarter' of this year, but they have yet to give me a definite date, so I am just waiting for the word," says Cosentino, "and when I find out, we will post it on the Incanto web site [Incanto.biz]."

And then there were the rave reviews for Pescheria and its chef, Jerry McGinnis, from food critic Michael Bauer in the *Chronicle's* Jan. 21 pink section. Writes Bauer: "McGinnis [has] made Pescheria into what may become the best casual seafood haunt in the Bay Area." What really wowed Bauer (in addition to the

menu) was that Pescheria has a beverage list that includes 16 tequilas, which is unusual for an Italian restaurant. He also appreciated the "excellent casual service."

Now the secret is out, and the restaurant is packed every night.

There are also rumors that the Mikeytom space, nearby at Church and Day streets, will be taken over by a very popular Eureka Valley eatery, but no one is talking on the record.

Also in the rumor mill is that the long vacant barbershop on the corner of Church and 25th streets will become a restaurant too, operated by an existing Noe Valley eatery. We hope to have more on these teases by next issue.



ANOTHER INVESTMENT in Church Street has been made by Edward Jones (financial specialists). Gary Norman, who is currently at the 24th Street Edward Jones, is opening up a second one at 1772 Church Street, where Sonia's Beauty Salon used to be before it closed at the end of last year.

Riding this wave of popularity, the Church Street merchants have banded together to form the Church Street Professionals Association. The group held a meeting at Lovejoy's Tea Room in mid-January, with Benton (Artery) and Lynn Ingham (Lynn Antiques) and more than 30 merchants and professionals attending.

"We have 90 businesses on Church Street from Elizabeth to 30th Street," says Benton, "and we have found a lot of interest and unity among the merchants along our street." The next meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. on March 19 at the law offices of Adams and Romer, located at 1189 Church Street.



DOWNTOWN NOE VALLEY once again has a title company in residence.

Financial Title has moved into the space on Diamond Street recently vacated by Natural Resources, which moved to much larger quarters at 1367 Valencia, near 25th Street.

Do any of you remember the last time the neighborhood had the services of a title company? That would have been Chicago Title Company, which occupied the space where the west half of Just for Fun is now. They left circa 1987.

It looks as if at least one of the units in the senior housing development where the Lunny house once stood at 3953 24th Street will be occupied by the time you read this. That would be the commercial unit on the ground floor. High Class Nail Salon will vacate its space up the street at 4010 24th Street and move in next to the restaurant Fresca.

As for the rest of the Lunny development, it appears that not one of the residential "senior" units has been sold after more than two years. Phone calls to the developers of the building for Rumors updates have not been returned for nearly two years also (hello, anybody home?). All the "For Sale" signs have been removed, along with the sign of the GMAC Finance Company, which was ready to provide money to qualified senior buyers. Evidently, there are no takers, which is quite sad for our neighborhood.

Something real might be happening soon at the vacant Real Food Company store on 24th across from Bell. The report from our supervisor, Bevan Dufty, is that things are looking up: "I have been informed by Sergio Diaz of Nutraceutical that they will be having a meeting with their architect on the first Friday of March. If everything goes well at that meeting, then they will be submitting plans to the city by mid-March, and the rebuilding of the store will start as soon

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RUMORS

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

as approval is obtained." The rumor is those plans will include demolition of the building.

☎ ☎ ☎

OH GIVE ME A HOME: Supervisor Bevan Dufty's search for a home in Noe Valley has proved to be fruitless. Says Bevan: "I had really hoped to find a home in Noe Valley, but we lost out on several bids, and it just didn't seem realistic to think we could find the space we needed at the price we could afford."

He and longtime friend Rebecca Goldfader had been looking for a two-flat house since they announced they were having a baby together in April of '06. "I figure that there is a reason we wound up in the Lower Haight portion of my district," Dufty says. "Even though I won't move in for a couple of months, I'm [already] making quite a few city service requests to address litter, lighting, and public safety concerns [in the Haight]."

"However, I am proud to report that my daughter Sidney is still wearing her Friends of Noe Valley T-shirt with a great deal of pride."

☎ ☎ ☎

SMOKEY STOVER is the name of Noe Valley's newest celebrity. This 4-year-old horse is the newest in the stable of DNV icon Harry Aleo, and evidently stirring memories of Lost in the Fog, who won the 2005 Eclipse Award as the country's outstanding sprinter. Lost in the Fog died of cancer last year.

Smokey hit the horseracing headlines on Jan. 27 when he won the \$300,000 Sunshine Millions Spring at Santa Anita

Park in Arcadia. He ran the six furlongs in a little over 68 seconds and now has won five of his last nine starts. Some are touting him as the "fastest horse in the nation."

Smokey's next race will be on Sunday, March 11, at Bay Meadows racetrack. The Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association is organizing a "Day at the Races" and hoping to see Harry and his horse trainer Greg Gilchrist in the winner's circle.

There will be a buffet for a fee, and box seats, so if you want to jump on the bandwagon, contact Small Frys owner Carol Yenne at cyenne@shcglobal.net.

☎ ☎ ☎

HERE IS A NOE QUIZ to challenge all you history-of-the-Valley buffs. E-mail back your answers to editor@noevalleyvoice.com. Ready?

1. What was the eclectic Star Magic first called when it opened on the corner of 24th and Noe in 1979?
 2. Where did the Noe Theater once stand?
 3. What was Herb's Fine Foods called when it first opened in 1943?
 4. What is Noe Valley's longest-running business? It opened in 1888.
 5. Where was a Bakers of Paris once located in Downtown Noe Valley?
 6. This house claims to be the oldest in Noe Valley. When was it built?
 7. Where in Noe Valley is the second steepest hill in San Francisco?
 8. On which corner in Noe Valley is the house that former San Francisco mayor "Sunny Jim" Rolph allegedly built for his mistress located?
 9. Where does Upper Noe Valley end and Fairmount begin?
 10. Who was Elizabeth Street named after?
- That's all, you all. Have a sane and safe St. Patrick's Day. ■

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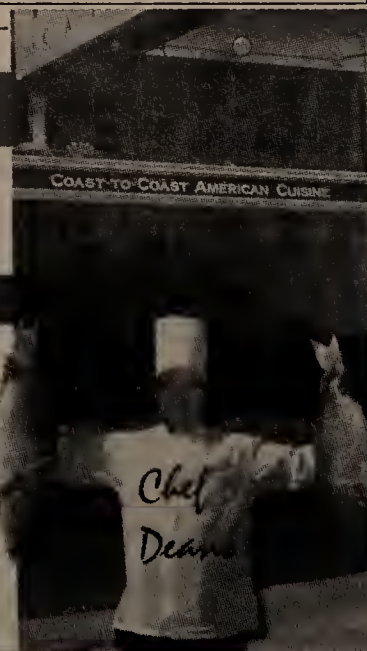
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 Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
 Eureka Valley Recreation Center, 100
 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Church Street Business (CSB)

Contacts: Lynn Ingham, 643-5966,
 or Paula Benton, 248-0235
 E-mail: bentonp@sprynet.com
 Meetings: Third Monday, every other
 month. Location varies. Sept. 18 meeting at
 Fattoush, 1361 Church St., 6:30 p.m.

Diamond Heights Community Association

Contact: Betsy Eddy, 239-5776
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 31529,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: First Thursday of the month, 7:30
 p.m. Call for location.

Dolores Heights Improvement Club

Contact: Amy Powell, 647-4228
 Mailing Address: 3732 21st St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Board meetings bimonthly; mem-
 bership semi-annually. Call for details.

Duncan Newburg Association (DNA)

Contacts: Pat Lockhart, 282-9360;
 Diane McCarney, 824-0303; or
 Deanna Mooney, 821-4045
 Mailing Address: 560 Duncan St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club

Contact: Paul Kantus, 647-3753
 Mailing Address: 492 Douglass St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Irregular, call to confirm.

Eureka Valley Promotion Association

Contact: Lion Barnett, 255-3624
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 14137,
 San Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Third Thursday of the month
 (except December), Eureka Valley Recrea-
 tion Center, 100 Collingwood St., 7:30 p.m.

Fair Oaks Neighbors

Contact: Joyce Kurtz, 401-6362

MORE GROUPS TO JOIN

Mailing Address: 261 Fair Oaks St., San
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 Meetings: Call for information. The annual
 Fair Oaks Street Fair is always held the day
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Friends of Dolores Park Playground

Contact: Eli Merritt, 415-285-3774
 E-mail: emerr@earthlink.net
 Mailing Address: 3786 20th St., San
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 Meetings: E-mail for information on
 advocacy meetings and social events for kids

Friends of Glen Canyon Park

Contact: Richard Craib, 648-0862
 Mailing Address: 140 Turquoise Way, San
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 Meetings: Call for details.

Friends of Noe Courts Playground

Contact: Laura Norman
 E-mail: lanranor@yahoo.com
 Mailing Address: c/o Friends of Noe Valley,
 P.O. Box 460953, San Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: E-mail for dates and times.

Friends of Noe Valley (FNV)

Contact: Richard May
 E-mail: rambooks@pacbell.net
 Web site: www.friendsofnoevalley.com
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 Francisco, CA 94146
 Meetings: First or second Thursday of the
 month (call or e-mail to confirm), at
 St. Philip's Parish Hall, 725 Diamond St.

Friends of On Lok's 30th Street Senior Center

Contact: Marianne Hampton, 601-7845
 Mailing Address: 225 30th St., San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Occasional. Call for details.

Friends of Upper Noe Recreation Center

Contact: Christina Goebel, 826-7772
 E-mail: christina_goebel@yahoo.com
 Meetings: Call or e-mail for dates and times.

Liberty Hill Neighborhood Association

Contact: John Barbey, 695-0990
 Mailing Address: P.O. Box 192114,
 San Francisco, CA 94119
 Meetings: Quarterly. Call for details.

Noe Strolls "Playgroup on Wheels"

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Noe Valley Association—Community Benefit District

Contact: Debra Niemann, nemo@rcn.com
 Dispatch: To report spills, debris, or garbage
 on 24th Street, call 559-8492.

Noe Valley Democratic Club

Contact: Andy Fleischman, 641-5838
 Meetings: Third Wednesday of the month;
 Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.,
 7:30 p.m.

Noe Valley Farmers' Market

Saturdays, 8 a.m. to noon, on 24th between
 Sanchez and Vicksburg Street
 Contact: Paula Benton, 248-1332
 Mailing Address: 4104 24th St., #401, San
 Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Second Thursday of the month,
 Noe Valley Ministry (co-sponsor), 1021
 Sanchez St., 8 p.m.

Noe Valley Library Campaign

Contacts: Kim Drew, 643-4695,
kkdrew@yahoo.com; Marian Chatfield-
 Taylor, 626-7512, ext. 103
 Mailing Address: Friends of the
 San Francisco Public Library, 391 Grove St.,
 San Francisco, CA 94102
 Meetings: Call for information.

Noe Valley Merchants and Professionals Association (NVMPA)

Contacts: Diane Barrett, 647-2116, or Teresa
 Gay, 336-6304
 E-mail: info@noevalleymerchants.com;
 register at www.noevalleymerchants.com.
 Meetings: Last Wednesday of the month.
 E-mail for location and time.

Noe Valley Parent Network

An e-mail resource network for parents
 Contact: Mina Kenvin
 E-mail: minaken@gmail.com

Noe Valley Preparedness Committee

Contact: Mindy Kershner, 377-3890
 E-mail: mindytower@aol.com
 Meetings: Call for details.

Outer Noe Valley Merchants

Contact: Jim Appenrodt, 641-1500
 Mailing Address: 294 29th St., San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Call for details.

San Jose/Guerrero Coalition to Save Our Streets

Contact: Don Oshiro, 285-8188
 E-mail: contact@sanjoseguerrero.com
 Web site: www.sanjoseguerrero.com
 Meetings: See web site.

See Jane Run Running/Walking Club

Contact: Lori Shannon, 401-8338
 Mailing Address: 3870 24th Street, San
 Francisco, CA 94114
 Meetings: Sundays, 10 a.m. (Runners meet
 at See Jane Run to pick up the 5K run/walk
 route. Info? www.SeeJaneRunSports.com.)

Southwest Mission Neighborhood Association (SWMNA)

Boundaries: 24th Street to Cesar Chavez and
 Fair Oaks to Mission
 Contact: Lori Oshiro, Secretary
 E-mail: lori@tail-wagging.com
 Web site: www.tail-wagging.com
 Meetings: E-mail for information.

Upper Noe Neighbors

Contact: Vicki Rosen, 285-0473
 Mailing Address: 169 Valley St., San
 Francisco, CA 94131
 Meetings: Last Thursday of the month (call
 to confirm), 30th Street Senior Center, 225
 30th St., 7:30 p.m.

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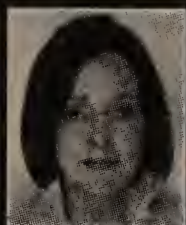
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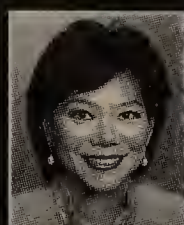
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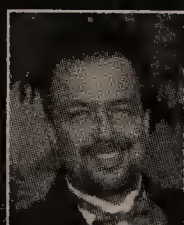
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THE LAST PAGE

Convergences

Or, You and I Are Not Parallel Lines

By Lisa Powell

Einstein became a Buddhist at the end of his life, or so said the man sitting next to me at the Thai restaurant on Church Street. I was enjoying a solitary lunch, quietly eating my salmon with ginger, writing in my journal, sipping my tea. He was at the table for two to my right, across from a teenage boy with ruffled hair who looked like he'd rolled in on a skateboard but who talked like an Oxford scholar. I didn't intend to eavesdrop, but the conversation was intriguing.

They talked about the idea of a supreme being, how things are not random, how Einstein recognized that. They tossed out complex math and physics concepts as if these were everyday lunchtime topics, like bantering about the latest office or Hollywood gossip. I thought to myself, I am going to like this neighborhood!

They talked about love, about how you can test a theorem through a mathematical proof but you can't "prove" how much you love someone—yet people try to weigh the amount of love they've received as if on a supermarket scale. How many pounds? How much per pound? Ah, if only love were as simple as buying groceries.

Moments like this—accidentally overhearing little gems of wisdom—are happy surprises for me, like walking into a shop and being offered free chocolates. As a reasonably new San Franciscan and a Bodhisattva-wannabe, I have this theory that San Francisco is a city of spiritual convergences, that there is an energy here that attracts spiritual seekers. I am quite sure I am not the first, or even the thousand-and-first, person to put that theory forward. But there it is.

I like this definition of *converge*: "to tend to meet in a point or line; incline toward each other, as lines that are not parallel." That makes sense to me, to think about all of us in the city as lines of energy, or vectors, moving toward our goals and destinations, sometimes meeting at a point or crossing paths, making crosshatched patterns when we intersect in crowds or at parties or even while making eye contact, crossing the street. *Zap!* Did you feel the energy?

Sometimes we create jagged lines, zigzagging patterns, sometimes circles or waves of harmony, when two or more of us are "in-synch" about a thought, a plan, a night out. This can



Photo collage by Jack Lippitt

produce "aha" moments, or drunken hysterical laughter, and that sense of belonging to a group or a partner. We get the joke. We feel at home. *This is our place.* We converge at a moment in time.

But enough of the physics and math talk. I just like living in San Francisco. I didn't think I'd end up here. I moved here for a two-month work project and ended up leaving the East Coast behind, as well as my husband. I subtracted myself from the two-part equation called marriage, you might say, which is a long, semi-tragic, and yet very ordinary story that perhaps you will overhear if you sit next to me at a Thai restaurant someday.

I threw myself into the spiritual life here, taking yoga classes, going on silent meditation retreats, reading books by Thich Nhat Hanh. The grief decreased, the spirit multiplied.

These days, a year and a half later, it feels good to simply walk these hills. It feels good to celebrate on Sundays at Glide Church, the most diverse church in the country. "If God made you, we want you," Reverend Cecil Williams announces as you settle into your pew next to a homeless person or former Mayor Willie Brown. No formula to fit into here, nothing to worry about or weigh—just show up, just be.

I like living in this neighborhood, walking down Chenery Street to where it ends at 30th and cutting over

to Church along the Muni streetcar line. I like crossing over the curving streetcar tracks and walking past the mounds of mangos, 99 cents each, squash for 69 cents a pound, at the corner market, past St. Paul's Church where Mother Teresa formed her U.S. novitiate, wandering up the gently rising street past Toast and Chloe's and antique shops and nail salons to reach 24th Street.

I like walking into Phoenix Books and getting that feeling that a book made its way into my hands for a reason, that it called to me from the shelf. I like learning that the author of a book I just bought, *San Francisco As You Like It*, lives in the neighborhood. I loved finding Rainer Maria Rilke's *Duino Elegies*, rapturous verses that I devoured during my days as a clove-smoking English major, on sale at Cover to Cover Booksellers for five bucks.

Before moving to Noe, I frequented City Lights bookstore in my old neighborhood. I used to live in North Beach, two blocks from Washington Square at the foot of Greenwich and Lombard streets. From the bay window in the front room, I could watch the cars snake down crooked Lombard Street, watch the sky turn cerulean at twilight. I would sit on my couch with a glass of wine and watch the view, rather than TV. This city is that delicious to me.

I was pleasantly surprised two Christmases ago to discover that I actually have roots here. I thought I was

a first-generation San Franciscan. Turns out that my grandmother's grandmother lived on Telegraph Hill. Her family had moved here from Ireland to work on the Pacific end of the railroad. If there was an earthquake, they were supposed to hold hands and run to the top of the hill. I got chills when my grandmother told me this. No one in the family, including her oldest son, my father, had heard this story before. Yet I had chosen to move here, drawn with a kind of homing instinct to the very neighborhood where my ancestors lived.

Last summer, I left San Francisco for six months to travel, and returned with a new outlook. I needed a new apartment to match. The housing angels must have been hovering; Craigslist delivered a two-bedroom Noe Valley gem within a week. I write this from my sunny home office on the second floor at the top of a hill on a quiet, cozy residential street. At night from the living room window, the city spreads out before me in neat diagonal rows of light like the Lite-Brite game board of my childhood.

In the mornings, I drink my tea on the back deck, sometimes with a book, sometimes just taking in the view. My landlords have cultivated a garden full of succulents with striking accents: a wild tangle of miniature daisies, delicate coral bells, spiky burgundy flowers with petals like a punk hairdo. At the rear of the garden, there is a colorful statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe, head bowed, hands in prayer position. The space is quiet, contemplative, an oasis in the city.

I don't think it's random that I ended up here in Noe Valley, or that I sat next to a man and a boy who were talking about Einstein, one of my favorite intellectuals and humanitarians, with his belief in miracles, his wild hair and kind eyes.

This is a city of convergences rather than parallel lines. I love the sweet geometry of it. ■

Lisa Powell is a freelance writer and consultant who moved to San Francisco from Troy, N.Y., in July 2005. When she's not traveling the world or parked on a cushion at a meditation retreat, she does strategic planning for the public and private sector, and writes marketing pieces, essays, articles, and poems. She is currently working on a nonfiction book on spiritual leadership.